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EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 29, 2015

East edition No 688



ECONOMY

How county fared in spending review

In-depth look at what it means for us all

POLICE

Competitors line-up in race to be PCC

Who will replace Ann Barnes in next May's election?

SPECIAL REPORT

Calling time on our faith

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Finding relief amid the wreckage of austerity era

IT COMES to something when the government unveils its spending plans for the next four years and because the depth of the cuts didn't make all public services bleed to death we consider it a triumph.

But this is the crazy world of austerity in which we now live.

One in which billions of pounds can be found down the back of the chancellor's metaphorical sofa and in which so much to make us fret for the future can be obscured by relief over everything else.

Of course, we have to exist in a society which lives within its financial means. For the sake of both our own pride and for our future generation.

In addition, there is no denying there was plenty of fat on the bones of many public services which, for the sake of ensuring all publicly funded services are run efficiency, could and should have been cut away.

Yet the cuts to some of our local authorities - which provide the services we all rely upon - have gone beyond that now and continue to be brutal.

The fact they can continue to operate the key services should not cover our eyes to the fact that some services relied upon by a minority will fall by the wayside as a result.

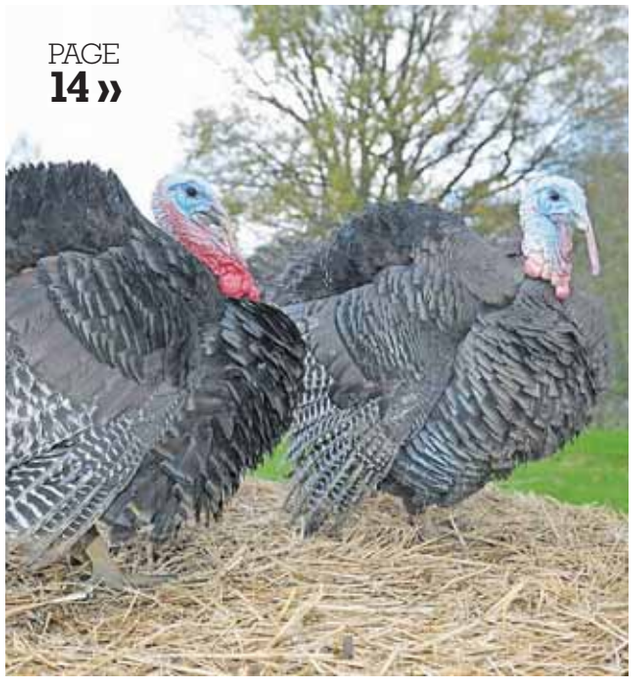
On the bright side, the money for Operation Stack - funding few of us thought we would see in the current climate - must be welcomed and those who lobbied so hard for it applauded. We should ensure now the processes required to get a lorry park established are progressed with a haste which means we are not still discussing it at the end of this current term.

Inside this issue we take a look over some of the main points and how it impacts on the county. Don't hesitate to share your views with us.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

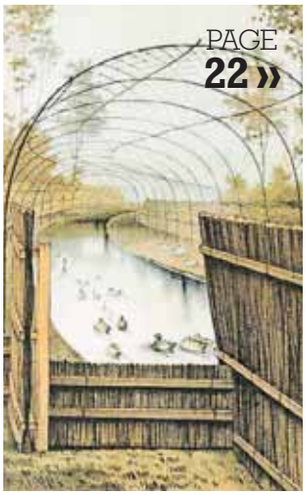
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Black Friday frenzy set to roll across weekend

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



POPULAR: Town centres have seen a pre-Christmas rush but more and more people are shopping online

SHOPPING centres around the county are banking on this weekend being the busiest of the year so far as Black Friday fever continues.

Shops and town centres were not as swamped as in previous years on Friday as more and more stores shifted their best bargains online in an effort to prevent the crazy scenes last year as shoppers fought over discounted goods.

It is expected shops will take millions in extra sales over this weekend.

At Royal Victoria Place in Tunbridge Wells, centre manager Nicky Blanchard said demand has been strong. She told KoS: "It was a pretty busy Friday with the footfall getting quite brisk at times.

"There was not the rush the moment store doors opened like there was last year, but shoppers seemed to have spread out their shopping over the day rather than first thing.

"We fully expect this to carry on over the weekend with people looking for the bargains they need."

A spokesman for Fremlin Walk in Maidstone said: "It has been much busier than normal. I wouldn't say it has been heaving, but there are a lot more people out there than we would expect on a normal Friday.

"We have had positive feedback from retailers saying it was pretty busy and should continue over the weekend. Black Friday seems to last all week now."

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, added: "Success on Black Friday and the following weekend is a good indication it could well be a good Christmas too for retailers.

"We have been hearing the economy is growing steadily, and sales like these are a great indicator on how well that recovery is going.

"Of course, many bargains are still available for online shoppers so it is not easy to tell how successful a sale period has been just from footfall."

It was predicted this will be the first year online purchases will hit over £1 billion in one day with an estimated spend of £1.07bn, according to Experian and online retail group IMRG.

Added Jo James: "This is a great time of the year for businesses to pick up pre-Christmas sales, and by all accounts, consumers are taking advantage."

'We've still got much to do' but relief at Ofsted children's services score

CHILDREN's services at Medway Council are finally getting better – two years after they were branded inadequate by Ofsted inspectors.

Following a month-long inspection in September, the unitary authority received a 'requires improvement' rating – an improvement on the 'inadequate' rating it got back in 2013.

Council chiefs say the rating now puts it in line with over half of councils inspected under the new Ofsted framework. But it admits it still has much to do. And political opponents say the Tory-led council is set to struggle to improve further courtesy of the latest cuts to local authority budgets from central government.

Mike O'Brien, portfolio holder for children's services on the council, said: "This is a positive step in a long improvement programme which we are committed to and we will continue to strive to meet our ambition to be good in all we do. There are still improvements to be made and we will keep working hard to become 'good'.

"This has been a tough couple of years and I must take the opportunity of thanking all of our staff and partners for their hard work and dedication which has enabled us to achieve this improvement."

The latest inspection scrutinised a range of areas including children's safeguarding, looked after children and adoption services.

They found no widespread or serious failures that leave children at risk and said there are many elements of good practice.

The Labour group on the council welcomed the findings but feared further improvement faced a hurdle.

Labour leader Vince Maple said: "It is going to take a great deal of investment to get us to where we need to be. And with the 29 per cent cuts to local government it is going to make it extremely difficult to even maintain the current standards of children's services let alone make improvements."

Lydd Airport rejuvenation to start 'early next year'

AMBITIOUS plans for a multi-million pound transformation of the airport at Lydd are ready for take off after more than 60 conditions for planning permission were met.

It means work to lengthen the runway at London Ashford Airport can begin early in the new year.

The newly-formed Lydd Airport Consultative Committee – created as a communications channel for local residents – heard of the update at a meeting on Thursday.

Shepway District Council, which is handling the planning application is set to give it the official go-ahead ''within days''.

Airport executive manager Hani Mutlaq said: ''We expect construction work to start in spring 2016 and be completed by the end of the year.''

Rail staff to decide whether to walk out on strike action

NEARLY 400 conductors working for Southern Railway are to be balloted over strike action by union RMT.

The union claims the rail firm, which runs services through Edenbridge and Tonbridge in the west of the county and to Ashford via the Romney Marsh in the east, has failed to deal with rostering issues, as well as issues with insufficient levels of staff.

The ballot, for both strike action and 'action short of a strike', will close on December 15.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: ''The staffing shortages are a disgrace. This is a vital and lucrative franchise where commuters pay thousands of pounds a year to travel on services that are chronically under-staffed and RMT members had had enough.''

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines **@kentnews.co.uk** during the past week

Returning Clangers pick up top prize at Baftas

THE Clangers capped their return to our screens in style last Sunday after scooping a top award at the children's Baftas.

It was named winner in the pre-school animation category. The show was originally created by the legendary duo Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin at their base in Blean, near Canterbury - and it was revived more than 40 years later. Mr Firmin is executive producer on the new series shown on CBeebies - while the late Mr Postgate's son, Dan, has written much of the scripts.

Monty Python star Michael Palin, who narrates the new series, said: "I think children know a lot more about good television sometimes than the grown-ups."

Enterprise zone vows to deliver nearly 10,000 jobs with triple developments

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE hope of thousands of jobs being created has been boosted after the North Kent Innovation Zone was named an enterprise zone this week.

Announced during the chancellor's autumn statement in the Commons this week, the zone follows closely the path of the M2 motorway and stretches from the edge of Maidstone to Gravesend.

It will include commercial development at Ebbsfleet garden city, the Kent Medical Campus at Maidstone and the Rochester Airport Technology Park. Benefits of the status include reduced business rates.

It joins Kent's existing enterprise zone in Sandwich, centring around the Discovery Park in Sandwich – former base of drug giant Pfizer.

It is hoped the three key elements of the zone will deliver around 230,000m of high quality business premises by 2027 – and potentially creating 9,900 jobs.



DEVELOPMENT: Jobs boost

The North Kent bid was endorsed and submitted to Government on behalf of the partners, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Maidstone Borough Council, Medway Council and other stakeholders, by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SE LEP) and Thames Gateway Kent Partnership.

Fran Wilson, the Liberal Democrat leader of Maidstone Borough Council, said: "We are delighted. With our private sector partners we are ready to go and I am confident we can now attract significant new inward investment to Maidstone, creating more business opportunities and jobs for local people."

Geoff Miles, chairman of the Kent & Medway Economic Board, said: "Kent's existing Enterprise Zone at Discovery Park has proven to be a great success, and we now want to show we can deliver the same level of jobs and businesses here in Maidstone.

"The bid, part of the North Kent Innovation Zone, was a compelling one as each of the sites complements the others in terms of their proposed activities and industries."

The zones formed part of the spending review setting out the government's financial plans for the next four years. For the full report see pages 19-21.



STAYING: The Kent & Canterbury

City hospital move plans are shelved

PLANS to shift the Kent & Canterbury Hospital into a new modern site on the outskirts of the city appear to have stalled after they were dropped from the council's key strategy document.

Canterbury City Council's Local Plan identifies key development sites across the district until 2031.

But as it goes out to public consultation, an initial proposal to sell off the existing hospital site to make way for 500 new homes now appears to have been shelved.

The plan says Canterbury can accommodate a further 16,000 new homes across the city and the wider district – to Whitstable and Herne Bay.

Additional sites added include plans for 1,150 homes on land adjacent to Cockering Road, Thanington, and an increase from 500 to 800 homes at land north of Hersden.

Council leader Simon Cook said: "Much hard work has gone into looking for additional sites and assessing the viability of those that we had already put forward. Amendments have been made to the plan and now we'd like to hear the views of local people on these."

Full details on the consultation, which runs until January 22, is available at www.canterbury.gov.uk/localplan.

Dame Kelly toasts first year in business

DOUBLE Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes will be raising a glass to her business acumen next weekend as she celebrates the first year of her own cafe.

The superstar of the 2004 games in Athens, opened 1809 - the number she wore during the games - in Tonbridge Road, Hildenborough.

She grew up in the town before going on to global fame.

There will be a series of celebrations taking place next Saturday, with Dame Kelly in attendance, and the chance of a complimentary drink and live music from local artists.

She said: "Reaching this one year milestone - a make or break for most cafes - hasn't been easy. No one knew what we were at first but we've evolved into this dynamic, exciting venue and we're growing. We also hope to extend local community reach through hosting openings for local artists, musicians, fundraisers for local organisations and more."

Ticket bonanza for the Kent Big Weekend

POPULAR annual ticket giveaway, the Kent Big Weekend, is set to mark its tenth anniversary in style with more tickets than ever before set to be handed out.

The event, organised by tourism champion Visit Kent, sees local attractions donate free tickets in order for Kent residents to explore sites on their doorstep - and then spread the word to friends and relatives.

So far, more than 26,000 tickets from 115 attractions have been donated. The date for the event in 2016 is March 12 and 13 - held to coincide with English Tourism Week.

Last year more than 105,000 people applied for 20,156 free tickets via the Big Weekend website.

Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "Every year, we see thousands of people getting out and about in Kent, discovering parts of the county they never knew existed. We want everyone to keep spreading the word about just how much we have to offer, and we have some great ideas to help our ticket holders to get into the spirit of the event in 2016."

The website will go live in January.

Teen tricked boys to send Snapchat shots

A TEENAGER who encouraged young boys to send him indecent images on popular photo app Snapchat has been jailed for five years.

Ryan Lee, 19, formerly of Cudworth Road in Willesborough, Ashford, was originally arrested in February. While he was on bail a 14-year-old boy told his parents that he had been approached online by a girl called 'Amber' and that Lee had encouraged him to accept her friend request, but he refused.

A 12-year-old boy later accepted 'her' request and then received a message asking for photos of him in his underwear but he declined.

Lee also messaged the boy from his own Snapchat account, and eventually persuaded him to exchange indecent images and videos.

The boy later received a message stating Lee was going to share the images, at which point he told his parents, who called the police. Lee pleaded guilty to four counts of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, two of making indecent images, one of possessing indecent images and four of distributing indecent images.

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Warning over dodgy Chinese 'hoverboards' on the market

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk



POPULAR: The wheeled devices will be hugely in demand this Christmas

TRADING standards officers have issued a warning over potentially dangerous 'hoverboards' flooding the market in the run up to Christmas.

The devices, which are often described as self-balancing scooters, have become a popular sight on our streets and are set to be one of the most in-demand gifts.

The wheeled devices take their name from the futuristic devices ridden in hit movie Back to the Future 2.

Now Kent County Council's trading standards is warning of a rash of cheap knock-offs, predominantly from China.

The regular ones retail for between £300 and £600 from reputable stores but some are being advertised for £100 or less on auction sites and social media accounts.

When the unmarked box is opened, the buyer finds a plug without a fuse and won't fit into the socket properly; a board that is packed with batteries that can overheat and explode; and instructions that include: "Get off the bus, get off before you stop intelligent drifting scooter balance state, one foot down, the other one foot in the left drifting scooter again".

KCC trading standards operations manager James Whiddett said: "The first thing consumers should do is check the packaging. They won't have manufacturer details on them.

"Plugs won't go into your socket properly and without a fuse, they're very dangerous. The product itself should have a CE mark on it and the ones we have found have nothing on them at all.

"These things have batteries in them that can overheat and catch fire and we've seen that happen in the county already. Remember the golden rule, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is."

The instructions should contain all the information you need to use the product safely and the manufacturers name and address should be included so you can contact them if anything goes wrong.

In Deal, Kent Fire and Rescue Service had to be called after a hoverboard bought online caught alight while charging.

The ensuing blaze caused a reported £25,000 worth of damage to the man's kitchen.

Strictly's Ola waltzes off BBC's top show

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Ola Jordan has confirmed she is to quit the popular BBC1 show.

The professional dancer, who lives in Maidstone with husband James Jordan, steps down after 10 years.

She said: ''I feel it's time for me to move onto other things. I love Strictly and have met some amazing people and made some great friends who I will miss massively.'' She partnered athlete Iwan Thomas in this year's show.

Hero hunt for those who give up their time

THE search for Swale's hidden heroes is on as nominations open for the Volunteer Swale Awards.

Organised by Swale Borough Council it recognises the hard work of those who give their time to put something back in to their community.

Nominations are open until midnight January 15. Details: www.swale.gov.uk/volunteer-swale.

Medway Test appeals

A WORKSHOP offering practical advice on preparing for the Medway Test appeals process is to be held in Rochester on January 17.

Appeals expert Marylyn Atkins and former head Anita Clemens will attend.

It takes place at 16 Union Street from 2pm-5pm. Tickets booked before the end of December cost £30. Proceeds go to charity.



Puppy has neck broken and set on fire in vicious attack

FOUR teenagers have pleaded guilty after an horrendous attack on a puppy which saw it kicked, punched and set on fire.

The RSPCA called the case "one of the most disturbing cases an RSPCA inspector has ever known".

The Chihuahua cross puppy, named Chunky, had been stolen before being subjected to a vicious attack over a number of hours.

Its leg and neck were broken, it was fed drugs and after being set on a fire was dumped on a rubbish tip in Manston Road, Margate, presumed dead. He was not found until the following day by a passer-by who alerted the RSPCA.



Two teens aged 16 and one aged 15 admitted kicking and punching the dog. Another, 16, pleaded guilty this week at Folkestone Youth Court to ill-treating the animal. He was banned from keeping animals for five years, given a referral order, and his father told to pay £5,000 in costs. None can be named for legal reasons.

The dog has since made a recovery and been returned to his owners. RSPCA inspector Caroline Doe said: "This was the most disturbing case I have ever dealt with – by an absolute mile.

"It is a miracle he survived."

Forces combine to create unit to tackle cyber crime

A JOINT cyber crime unit – designed to crack down on the growing threat posed by online fraud – is to be established next year by Kent and Essex police.

Extending the two forces working relationship will see the unit identify and tackle the fast emerging crime spawned on the internet.

Speaking at a conference at the Kent Police Training College in Maidstone recently, attended by business owners and community leaders, Det Supt Mark Hall from Kent Police said as much as 80 per cent of cyber crime could be prevented.

The Business Crime Conference was hosted by police and crime commissioner Ann Barnes.

The themes of the event were emerging crime types, and what Kent's businesses can do to protect themselves.

Mrs Barnes said: "Business crime is not a victimless crime. When your business is attacked it hurts just the same as if your home has been attacked.

"We recognised the main emerging threats to businesses in Kent were cyber crime, fraud and high-value shoplifting committed by organised crime groups.

"More and more of our business takes place online so it is important that we know how to protect ourselves."

Ruth Davies from the National Fraud Investigation Bureau explained the importance of all businesses reporting all instances of fraud -fro the small pieces of the 'puzzle' to form a picture of a wide-spread network which can be investigated locally.

Principal is in the clear

POLICE have confirmed it will be bringing no charges against Sean Heslop, former executive principal of the Marlowe and Folkestone academies.

The 47-year-old was told he was in the clear after a seven-month probe into 'abuse of a position of trust'.

Hop Farm camping it up

CAMPERS have given the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood the thumb's up after being named the top-selling site in the south east for 2015.

It came top according to bookings for camping and caravan sites made on the Pitchup.com website.

Get your free bag of salt

GET ready for the cold snap with free sacks of salt from Swale Borough Council.

It is offering 3,000 sacks to residents to keep their paths free of snow and ice. There will be giveaways in Faversham, Sheerness and Sittingbourne next Saturday, December 5. See the council website for details.

Abuser is finally jailed

A SEX offender who regularly abused a girl throughout the 1980s has been jailed for four years.

Dean Tarrant, 47, from Brentwood in Essex, was a child when the offences in Swanley and Dartford began but he continued to abuse her into adulthood. The assaults took place in Swanley and Dartford.

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Top Three Stories



1. £250m to avoid Stack

The spending review was announced

2. Southern Rail 'a disgrace'

Rail union plans strike action

3. Snapchat pervert

Ryan Lee, 19, was jailed for five years

The Essential Guide:



...to Operation Stack

All you need to know about the scheme, which the chancellor has invested £250m to avoid



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Star Wars fans were this week given the opportunity to get their hands on an exclusive range of comic artwork from the 1970s and 1980s - signed by the legendary Stan Lee.

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Top Three Blogs



1. Too reliant on phones?

Why our constant usage is unhealthy

2. Don't let terrorists win

Why we must be careful in response to Paris

3. Men on ground needed

Are government's Twitter troops enough?

Results of the *KoS* Online Poll

Should the UK join air strikes in Syria?

1. Yes, with ground troops, too - 30%
2. Yes, just air strikes - 20%
3. No - 45%
4. Undecided - 5%



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As religion is again used to justify 'war' is it time to suspend belief?

Amid the terror raged by Isis and the fuss this week over a cinema ad for the Church of England, do we really still need to cling to a belief system in such a modern era? **Chris Murphy** tests the water...

THERE has been much debate in recent years about how, as a society, we are becoming ever more secular - a move which has long been contributed to a general decline in attendance at churches around the land.

But while the Church of England has long since sought to halt that decline, the subject of religion has, once again, become a dominant force in our every day news.

Organised religion may have failed to strike a chord here in our traditional communities, but we may be the exception to a global society which continues to grasp various different forms of faith to their chests.

Yet it remains a hugely divisive area - capable of sparking conflict and restricting freedoms.

The gross misinterpretation of Islam adopted by the likes of the so-called Islamic State reminds us all that if we believe we have all progressed from days gone-by, then it is far from the truth.

It prompted one high profile Kent bishop this week to tell KoS that religion can be "nothing less than toxic" in some forms.

All of which prompts the question of whether religion should still hold such a grasp on our lives in this modern era?

The Right Reverend Trevor Wilmott, the Bishop of Dover, says his faith in faith remains rock solid. He told KoS: "If you want to know whether religion is a force for good in today's society, you need to walk alongside people of faith. Witness for yourself how they spend their time and money, speak with them about what they value and what their hopes are, ask them how they respond when everything goes wrong.

"I spend so much of my time doing exactly that: visiting parishes, churches and projects throughout east Kent and further afield, and I can honestly say this world would be far poorer without people of faith and the role they play in their communities and the wider world.

"I have seen hungry people fed, homeless people housed, lonely people befriended, busy people given peace – all in the name of God. Of course, people without a religious faith also do these things – but for so many, faith is the motivation.

"So, religion clearly can be a force for good. But we've all witnessed –though TV screens and radios, in the newspapers or even first-hand – how some forms of religion can be nothing less than toxic. So how do we know the difference before it's irrevocably upon us?

"When religion becomes a reason for closing the door on someone, rather than for opening it wider, then something is wrong. When we make God in our own image and refuse to be challenged, we've lost touch with who God is and what he calls us to. When 'faith' becomes self-indulgent, rather than self-forgetting, then it has lost its reason for existence.

"Where I have witnessed religion at its best, it speaks of a genuine connection to the very heart of God – through prayer and worship - but also with the heart of humanity – through a rootedness in community, friendships and family relationships. At its best, religion draws heaven and earth together, for the benefit of all."

Anwar Khan speaks for the Kent Muslim Welfare Association. He is sickened by the recent Isis attacks in Paris and elsewhere and the manner in which it has tarnished his peace-promoting religion.

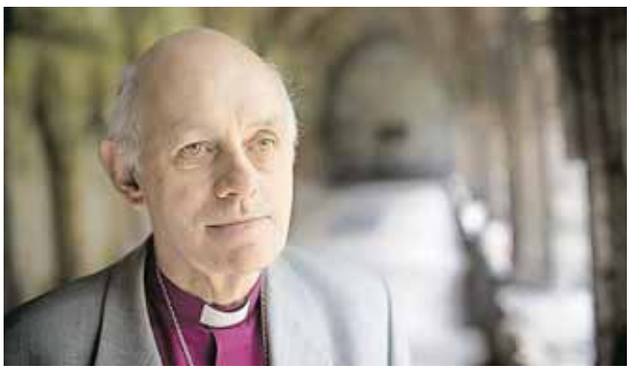
He told us: "There is no room in the Islamic faith for these people. I would get behind anyone who can rid the world of them.

"They do not represent Islam. It is the religion of peace and constantly preaches peace to all men.

"Here in Gillingham, we are very inclusive. We welcome anyone through our doors and see what Islam is really all about. We teach love and peace to mankind and abhor all violence.

"There is most definitely room in the world for Islam. What is destroying the religion is people like Isis who have no claim to the faith."

Jon Weiner, the chairman of the Chatham Memorial Synagogue, said the proof of religion's positive message lay deep within our communities.



CONFIDENT: Bishop of Dover believes religion is a force for good



CLOUDS: Is Christianity facing a challenge to remain relevant?

He told us: "If there was no room in society for religion, why do we have churches, synagogues, mosques and gurdwaras?

"There's a place for it all the time people get a benefit from their belief. Religion in its true sense has a moral code, it has a sense of belonging it has an appreciation that, depending on your beliefs, that there is a place beyond this world, and obvious people feel the need for that.

"Organised religion is a way of bringing those people together. Obviously, where it becomes a problem is when that religious belief becomes perverted.

"Religion in its true sense is a good thing. Where it becomes perverted for personal or political reasons then it becomes a bad thing. Wars and conflicts are started in the name of religion by people who manipulate religion for their own needs."

Parvinder Singh Lalli is from the Gurdwara in Gravesend. He added "From a Sikh's point of view, religion is most definitely a path for the betterment of society. However, the difference between a truly spiritual person and a person who calls themselves religious is their actions and whether they are in line with the betterment of society by promoting justice, respect for one another, and so on, and to benefit to their own spirituality."

The British Humanist Society was founded in 1896 and has more than 40,000 members. It is a national charity working on behalf of those with non-religious views.

A spokesman told us: "It would be far too simplistic to say that people who are motivated by religion to do good are not good for society. But what must be acknowledged is that religious practice, identity, belonging and belief are all in decline in this country, and non-religious identities are on the rise.

"We should also be moving towards a type of secularism, one that is firmly rooted in liberal principles of equality before the law, respect for diversity and the right to different beliefs, reasonable accommodation.

"In short, a state where the state institutions are separate from religious institutions, and the state is neutral on matters of religion or belief. In such a state, no one is privileged nor disadvantaged on grounds of their religious or non-religious beliefs. It is principles like these that are anathema to fundamentalist groups who carry out the atrocities like we saw in Paris."



SMEARED: Peace promoting Islam has been hi-jacked by terror group Isis

■ **What do you think? Enter the debate. Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

Liberty director is urging unity following recent Paris atrocities

The director of human rights organisation Liberty came to Canterbury and spoke to a sell-out crowd about the importance of building trust in communities and not letting terrorists affect our way of life

By Molly Kersey-Law
molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

LIBERTY director Shami Chakrabarti says now is the time for unity following the devastating terrorist attacks in Paris, in order to stand up for the way of life they are trying to change.

The head of the human rights organisation made the comments to KoS as she appeared to address a sell-out audience in Augustine Hall, Canterbury, on Thursday.

Hosted by Canterbury Christ Church University, the talk was attended by some 400 people and delved into issues such as the human rights act and surveillance.

It focused on how the world has changed so dramatically since the September 11 attacks on New York in 2001.

Ms Chakrabarti has written a book, On Liberty, exploring the West's response to the 9/11 attacks and how security measures undertaken since – such as computer hacking – could actually make us less safe.

So in the wake of the atrocity in Paris, could this worsen?

"There is a danger of more knee jerk reactions," she told us.

"Terrorism, in a nutshell, is politically or ideologically motivated violence and it's a way in which a few people can try and achieve power over a greater number.

"The only way they can do that is by provoking and dividing.

"I think there's nothing that would suit so-called Islamic State – those who conspired to the atrocity in Paris – better than to achieve more repression, more division, more disaffection and potentially more recruitment to their cause.

"So I think it's really important to take a deep breath and remember that human rights are universal values.

"If you look at the states that have actually exported terrorism I'm afraid they are some of the most repressive. The way to stand in true solidarity with victims of atrocities like Paris, the London 7/7 attacks and 9/11 is to make sure we stand up for the way of life that the terrorists actually want to change."

And she praised Kent's way of previously dealing with atrocities.

"There's nothing like the people of Kent; the whole spirit of people in Dover and elsewhere, who know what it's like to feel that you are at the actual frontier of this country.

"That was the experience in the Second World War.

"Previous generations defeated totalitarianism and this generation owes it to previous generations and future ones to do the same – we don't honour their legacy by shutting down freedoms in the way that the terrorists would like.

> **"If you're looking for a needle, don't build a bigger and bigger haystack so you don't even know what you are looking for anymore"**
>
> **Shami Chakrabarti,** Director of Liberty

"I think it's perfectly right that there is proper and sometimes increased security at borders. We have some great security agencies and policing services and nobody really minds, myself included, being subject to a polite but rigorous search before getting on a plane or Eurostar or boat. What we don't want is to feel that we are all suspects all of the time and that we have no privacy in any communication."

In 2013, whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed that a huge number of personal communications such as emails, social media posts and internet searches were being intercepted and processed.

"We know the internet is a force for great good but bad things can also happen online and so the internet can't be an ungoverned space, but bad stuff happens in family homes too," said Ms Chakrabarti.

"Any dwelling that's been a domestic home for dozens of years has probably been a crime scene at one point or another – conspiracies, fraud, violent crime and worse. But that's not a defence for saying 'we'll put cameras and microphones in everybody's home'. There has to be a balanced, proportionate response."

She added: "If you're looking for a needle, don't build a bigger and bigger haystack so you don't even know what you're looking for anymore.

"It's perfectly common after a terrible attack to realise that many of the suspects were known to the authorities before, so turning us all into suspects isn't just bad for our confidence, intimacy, dignity and trust, it can also be a distraction from more targeted surveillance and from building the kind of trust in communities that makes people want to come forward with proper human intelligence.

"If for example British Muslims feel scared because they feel they are going to be treated as suspects, they are less likely to confidently come forward if they have concerns.

"Blanket surveillance makes people feel paranoid. We do need some privacy."



SOLIDARITY: Liberty director Shami Chakrabarti is encouraging people to stick together in the wake of atrocities

SHAMI CHAKRABARTI: ON LIBERTY

THE Liberty director took to the stage at Augustine Hall and spoke about why our fundamental rights and freedoms – which are laid out in the Human Rights Act – must not be compromised.

Ms Chakrabarti first joined Liberty on September 10, 2001 – the day before the terror attacks in New York.

She spoke about the origins of the organisation, which began in 1934 and was originally named the National Council for Civil Liberties.

She referenced her book, On Liberty, which details how much pressure our human rights have been under following 9/11.

She laid out the terms of the Human Rights Act, such as people having the right to life and the prohibition of torture.

''What distinguishes us from tyrants and terrorists is that we don't do torture,'' she said.

She told the audience that the article in the act she believed to be the most important was the one prohibiting discrimination and ensuring people had 'equal treatment under the law'.

''If you really practiced it there would be no torture and slavery, there would be no detention without charge or trial, there would be no unjustified intrusion into thought and speech and so on.''

She referenced a chapter in her book called 'Nothing to hide, nothing to fear', which explores intrusions into privacy.

''What has been happening and what is proposed is that everybody's web browser, location data on their smart phones and every bit of information that reveals who you spoke to and for how long and where, should be collected.

''It's not just that you should be afraid of the 'Big Brother' state, but build a bigger and bigger database and you'll make yourself more vulnerable to hackers and fraudsters and terrorists, and leave a permanent vulnerability in your internet security – which is our security.''

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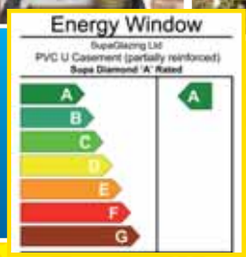
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Why we keep talking turkey in our millions each Christmas

Chris Murphy speaks to some of the county's farmers who for much of the year have been nurturing the birds who will be served up on the dinner tables of nearly three quarters of families this year and why Kent's are the best...

IT MAY be a turkey's favourite time of year, but as Christmas draws nearer, the county's farmers are gearing up to satisfy our relentless demand for the birds.

Some countries will eat the bird all year round, but we Brits go crazy for turkey at Christmas.

And to underline that, last Christmas the nation gnawed its way through a remarkable 10 million of the birds. According to statistics, that's some 76 per cent of families having turkey as the centrepiece of their festive meal.

For many farmers, the rush to grab a succulent bird is the end of a year long process.

Clive and Andrew Wreathall farm 900 acres on the Romney Marsh at their family-run firm, Appledore Turkeys. It is this year celebrating the 75th anniversary of its creation in 1940 by their grandfather.

Andrew Wreathall explained: "Business is going really well at the moment, but people are ordering later and later in the year. It's a rather last minute industry.

"We order the birds in January, they arrive in June but we won't know how many are sold until the last week or so before Christmas. It is a bit of a weird business.

"We have over 20,000 here so it is important the take up is good as not many people will be eating turkey in January."

Their birds are sold at butchers, farm shops and other retailers through the south east.

Mr Wreathall added: "The farm has had an amazing several-year run in the Great Taste awards taking major prizes since 2013, all of which are judged purely on blind tasting and not clever marketing or packaging.

"It is a sign that we only deal in quality products.

"We use traditional animal husbandry methods. We have genuine care and concern about all our birds so they live a long and healthy life, enjoying natural diets and the freedom to roam grassy paddocks. They are all round the buildings – they are everywhere. This contributes to the turkeys' distinctive taste and texture – ideal for the festive season."

The slaughter season starts at the beginning of December – in preparation for the rush. Mr Wreathall explained: "We have to hang for a minimum of 10 days to improve the flavour. That is the crux of what we do. It is a bit like hanging beef, it gives a better eating experience, which is what it is all about."



According to statistics, we spent £38m on turkeys in 2013 - a 163 per cent increase on 2008's figures of £14.4m. Perhaps as a key factor, the amount of turkey raised and produced in the UK rocketed by 122 per cent according to the Office for National Statistics.

What with the general trend of buying local, little wonder many of Kent's farmers are benefitting.

Tony Fleck (left) has run Kent Turkeys Ltd, at Woolpack Corner Farm in Biddenden, for 15 years. His is a smaller operation but also focuses on quality not quantity.

Mr Fleck told us: "We limit ourselves to 1,300 birds a year, so in effect we have 1,300 customers, 90 per cent of whom come back year after year."

It is their 15th year as a franchisee of the award-winning free-range KellyBronze turkey - a bird once described in a national newspaper as "the pampered prince of the turkey world". A particular breed, it matures longer and is reared according to free-range guidelines.

He said they receive day-old chicks in early June which are then nurtured for five weeks before they are moved to grass fields





FARMED: Tony Fleck, pictured among his flock right and below left, is producer of one of the most in-demand forms of turkey from his farm in Biddenden

and woodland areas where they thrive on natural foods.

Little wonder, then, they have been recommended by top chefs including Delia Smith, Jamie Oliver and Nigella Lawson.

But he admits he is seeing a trend to mix meats - with turkey being joined by other treats.

He said: "We are specialists and as such we have a very loyal customer base. But we have seen a growing trend in recent years. In growing numbers, people are buying a smaller turkey and a similar sized goose to go with it.

"That has been steadily rising over the years – it seems people are looking for a little more variety than just turkey over Christmas."

The goose may be seen as a rather more luxurious dish, but once the roles were reversed.

In the 1950s, turkey was seen as the luxury and goose the more popular.

Trade group British Turkey explained: "In the past, other Christmas fare included roast swan, pheasants and peacocks. A special treat was a roast boar's head decorated with holly and fruit."

Filling the Christmas dining table is a daunting time. The Food Network discovered on average, British women [their choice of language] do not attempt their first Christmas lunch until they are 34.

Hugh Richards produces 220 Sussex beef cattle and other cows at his farm in Biddenden, and he told us: "It is a difficult time in agriculture anyway, but we are not affected by those selling turkeys. We supply a great product all year round and people only eat turkey on one day.

"We do sell plenty at this time of year despite Christmas and of course there are still plenty of people who are not so keen on turkeys anyway."

Further good news for turkey farmers is that they should cash in more than normal too. Rearing costs are showing a small decline and turkey prices are rising slightly.

NFU poultry adviser Tom Lander said based on industry feedback, the total cost of producing a 5.5kg turkey was down by four per cent this season. This is thanks to significantly lower feed costs which fell just over 12 per cent to around £7.20 a bird.

He said farming costs like heating and some labour were also down, by almost six per cent to £3.40 a bird, mainly reflecting lower gas prices.

Processing labour, distribution, waste removal and overhead costs have all risen this year, but thanks to other savings, the net effect was still a four per cent drop in total costs.

So does the rest of the world focus its festive feasting on turkey? Well certainly in America, the bird is in huge demand for Thanksgiving - which took place on Thursday. Statistics suggest 46 million of the birds were eaten by families celebrating - with around 88 per cent of the US population tucking in during the holiday season.

When it comes to Christmas demand, around 22 million are consumed by our trans-Atlantic cousins.



AND THERE'S PLENTY OF CHOICE FOR THOSE WANTING TO AVOID MEAT THIS CHRISTMAS...

MARIA Chiorando (pictured, right) is editor of Vegan Life magazine. She explains how those who prefer to avoid meat products can feast this festive season.

While millions of Brits will tuck into a traditional turkey roast this Christmas, a growing number are choosing to eschew animal products and enjoy plant-based foods instead.

The last few years have seen an explosion in the number of people following the vegan philosophy – which rejects the commodification of living beings, and aims to exclude all forms of cruelty and exploitation towards animals as far as practicable. And with the UN publishing a report earlier this year about the massive greenhouse gas emissions of the animal agriculture industry (which exceed emissions from transport) environmentalists are also turning their backs on meat and dairy.

Kent itself has a vibrant and burgeoning vegan community – with the county's first dedicated festival taking place in Canterbury in October this year– and a growing number of social groups, restaurants and campaigners springing up around the movement.

This growing interest in plant-based diets means it's becoming easier and easier to make a tasty, meat and dairy-free, cruelty-free festive meal. A popular option is to take a traditional roast, and replace the turkey with an alternative 'meat-style' product. Some surprising developments are taking place in labs, as scientists aim to create 'slaughter-free' meat by cultivating muscle mass from harvested animal cells. But until this bio-meat of the future hits supermarket shelves (currently predicted to be some time in the 2030s), there are plenty of other options.

This year a number of companies have expanded, improved, or even imported their faux-turkey ranges in time for the festive season. A big name is American brand Tofurky which had a UK launch of several products earlier this year. Famed for its eerily accurate replicas of sausages and cured meats, it also produces a sizeable 'turkey crown' joint. South African company Fry's Family Foods has a range of meat-style products, with a newly launched 'superfoods' line – vegan journalists and foodies have been heaping praise on the soy and quinoa country roast. For UK-based brands, look at V-bites.

The rest of the classic Christmas meal is surprisingly easy – and tasty – to veganise. After all, living in a county which is famed for its rich and delicious arable yield, excellent local and seasonal produce is easy to find. Simply replace animal fats in roasting with other oils including vegetable, coconut, or rapeseed – just as delicious and much healthier for the heart. Honey-coated vegetables can be doused with agave syrup, and if you don't fancy making your own, many dried commercial gravy mixes are vegan – as are lots of boxed stuffings.

In terms of dessert, a number of Christmas puddings are vegan, it is just a case of checking the ingredients thoroughly – and pairing with non-dairy cream (soya, oat or rice, for example) or custard. For home-made mince pies, simply replace butter in your pastry with a plant-based margarine alternative – or check boxed brands, as many ready-made varieties are vegan.





In Norway, the big festive feast takes place on Christmas Eve. Most people around the coastal regions eat fish - concoctions of cod and haddock and a variety called lutefisk. Inland they go for pork chops, specially prepared sausages and occasionally lamb.

In Sweden the Christmas feast consists of a smorgasbord of caviar, shellfish, cooked and raw fish and cheeses. In the Ukraine, the people prepare huge broths brimming with meat for Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day.

Much of eastern Europe holds Christmas Eve almost akin to the day itself in terms of importance. In the Czech Republic, tradition dictates that the tree is not lit before Christmas Eve then they have a big dinner of fish soup, salads, eggs and carp. It is also said the number of people at the table must be even or it is believed the person without a partner will die next year.

In Germany, many have a game feast on Christmas Day, usually wild boar or venison while in the heat of the Caribbean, in Jamaica Christmas dinner usually consists of rice, gungo peas, chicken, ox tail and curried goat.

Perhaps not surprisingly, in Italy where meals are always a social occasion, Christmas dinner can last for more than four hours. Most families will have seven or more courses including antipasti, a small portion of pasta, a roast meal, followed by two salads and two sweet puddings - then cheese fruit, brandy and chocolates.

And in Austria, a traditional Christmas dinner would consist of braised carp served with gingerbread and beer sauce while the good folk of Poland will enjoy a Christmas Eve supper consisting of 12 non-meat dishes, representing the months of the year and featuring fish such as pike, herring and carp.

Other typical Polish dishes are fish soup, sauerkraut with wild mushrooms or peas and Polish dumplings with various fillings.





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By George, it wasn't all that bad

We have reached the stage when big cuts, rather than enormous ones, are being welcomed as many took a deep sigh of relief at the chancellor's spending review. **Chris Britcher** and **Tom Pyman** report

IT SEEMED a truth universally acknowledged that Wednesday's spending review announcement by chancellor George Osborne was going to be something of a financial blood bath.

The sound of the austerity axe being sharpened had been deafening and every sector which relied on public funding seemed braced for four more years of hardship.

But if there is one thing we have learned over the years, it is that politics retains the ability to take us all by surprise.

And while the budget details did not banish the spectre of austerity, they certainly weren't as devastating as we had all come to expect.

The police, whose top brass were anticipating a worse case scenario of a 40 per cent cut, were left unscathed and with promises of protection; Operation Stack, feared by so many to be overlooked by Whitehall, received a major financial injection; further education colleges didn't suffer as badly as expected, and the much discussed Ebbsfleet garden city got more money too.

And much to the relief of many, the hugely unpopular tax credits reform was scrapped completely.



SMILES: Chancellor and prime minister pulled a rabbit out of the hat at Wednesday's autumn statement as cuts less savage than expected

While this was far from a budget announcement to send us all into raptures - and political opponents were lining up around the block to criticise it - the reality is that the sense of relief was tangible. When we are all expecting terrible news, the status quo seems like a triumph.

So what were the main impacts on our communities here in Kent? Here's our overview of the key issues.

OPERATION STACK: £250M PLEDGED TO EASE CHAOS

STACK is a bit like snowfall. It happens only occasionally, but when it does it dominates our thoughts and brings traffic chaos across Kent. But when it melts away, we collectively forget about it. Until the next time.

But after a summer like no other in the county - where the perfect storm of striking French ferry workers, reduced cross-Channel capacity and repeated breaches of security by desperate migrants seeking passage to our shores - the shadow of Stack continued to be cast.

For 32 days, Stack was in force, turning the M20 into a major lorry park, putting intolerable strain on all other roads, and costing businesses in Kent and Medway some £1.45million a day, according to research by Kent County Council.

And after constant lobbying Whitehall finally sat up and took notice. George Osborne confirmed it will invest £250million to provide a solution.

Although details on just how exactly that cash will be spent is still to be clarified, government papers confirm it will be for a ''major new permanent lorry park''.

It says it will consult on a preferred site at Stanford - just off junction 11 of the M20 close to Westenhanger - and other alternatives shortly.

The news was welcomed by KCC chiefs.

Leader Paul Carter said: ''Operation Stack has cost the county's economy at least £45m this year.

''Some 90 per cent of HGV traffic from continental Europe comes through the county and when Kent



grinds to a halt with Operation Stack, it also drags down the national economy. The Freight Transport Association (FTA) estimates a wider cost to the UK economy of £250m per day.

''We expect significant growth of two to four per cent annually at the Port of Dover and up to 30 per cent over the next five years at Eurotunnel, resulting in an increase in average daily flows of HGVs from the current 10,000 per day to up to 16,000 per day over the next decade.

''Closures at the port because of bad weather or technical problems are often unavoidable and likely to increase in frequency given the prevalence of industrial disputes and migration problems on the other side of the Channel.

''Operation Stack is a national issue and we very much welcome the government's recognition of this.''

Ann Barnes, Kent's police and crime commissioner, had sought reassurance from the home office earlier this year that the additional policing costs involved in Stack would be met. She also welcomed the financial promise.

She said: ''This summer the people of Kent endured months of misery and delays because of problems of the road network out of our control. Then the people of Kent had the added and totally unfair burden of having to pay for policing the closures on the M20.

''I feared that the whole problem would get forgotten about, so I'm pleased the government appears committed to finding a long-term alternative solution to Stack. I look forward to a speedy resolution, well before next year's misery.''

The speed of the process in building the site is unlikely, however, to be fast for such a major development.

It is certainly good news for those who reacted with dismay at the previous short-term 'solution' for Stack which involved diverting lorries to the disused Manston Airport site and parking them on the runway. Such a scheme would almost certainly have ground many other parts of the county to a halt too. Fortunately, so far, it has not been called upon.

GARDEN CITY: EXTRA FUNDING



THE development of the Thames Gateway area around Ebbsfleet has been sluggish at best over the years. But when George Osborne appeared on a Sunday TV programme early in 2014 to announce a 15,000 home garden city it took almost everyone by surprise.

But after pledging £200m of Whitehall funds to the project - seen as helping to ease the pressure on housing and sparking the economic benefits of such a major development - those closest to it started becoming increasingly concerned it was not enough.

Just two weeks ago, Dartford's Conservative MP Gareth Johnson had appealed for the original sum pledged to be almost doubled to allow for the necessary infrastructure required to ensure that it became a self-sufficient community rather than simply a sprawling commuter estate devoid of the necessary infrastructure to allow it to become a destination of choice rather than necessity.

So while the increase in funding to £310m in Wednesday's spending review was not quite the riches hoped for, it was seen as a major step in the right direction.

Explained Mr Johnson: ''This is a very large investment for Ebbsfleet.

''It will go a long way towards ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place to support the homes being built.

''People rightly want to know about infrastructure investment whenever new homes are proposed and this announcement responds to those concerns.

''This investment shows the government's commitment to the Ebbsfleet garden city and I look forward to seeing its progress over the coming months and years.''

BUSINESS: CHANCELLOR SHOULD BE 'APPLAUDED'

IF there is one area of society the chancellor was unlikely to be too harsh on, it was surely business – the traditional friends of the Conservatives.

And there was lots to ensure they kept on side.

Jo James (right) is the chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses across the county. She described the autumn statement as one the majority of businesses in the county "will applaud".

She explained: "This wasn't the doom and gloom spending review that most anticipated.

"We are delighted the chancellor has used this opportunity to listen to business on infrastructure, particularly on repairing our broken road network. This will help move people and goods more efficiently across the country, which will help businesses to grow.

"Kent small businesses will be pleased to hear the extension for the small business rate relief for 12 months.

"Increasing investment in science and technology is a boon to our dynamic businesses, especially in our thriving tech sector, so they have room to grow. However, it is important the move to replace grants with loans from Innovate UK [a non-departmental public body reporting into the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills] does not reduce our dynamism in the global economy.



Businesses must continue to feel empowered to evolve and expand, otherwise we risk being also-rans in the global race.

"This spending review and autumn statement was about reducing our budget deficit and reshaping the state. It is right that the chancellor continues to provide the nation with the headroom it needs to be able to weather the choppy global waters which may appear in the years to come, and without delay. Reshaping the state will in general be beneficial for the economy, because as a rule the public sector is less productive and less efficient than the private sector.

"However, it is not an article of faith, there are some things that only government can and should do; markets are imperfect and markets can fail. In those circumstances it is right that government intervenes in the best interests of the economy as a whole.

"What I didn't hear was a commitment to the lower Thames Crossing, but the pressure will continue to ensure this vital project is delivered for the businesses and residents of Kent."

EDUCATION: COLLEGES SEE FUNDING PROTE

WHILE funding for our state schools remains ring-fenced (although many will be quick to point out it remains at a critical level in many areas) the big fear on Wednesday was for our further education colleges.

With students now committed to remaining in full time education, or training, until they are 18, both colleges and sixth forms have seen big drops in the funding made available to them in recent years.

What once proved the cash cow which helped fund other courses, many have found themselves struggling.

But while many principals were expecting to be spending this weekend staring into the face of a harsh new reality and poring over the budgets for the next four years in a bid to try and make ends meet; instead they feel like they have dodged a bullet.

Funding for students has not only been frozen – rather than reduced further – but also assured for the next four years. In addition, sixth form colleges have been told they can apply for academy status – a move which would see them become exempt from paying VAT – another significant potential cost saving.

Graham Razey, principal of East Kent College, which has campuses in Broadstairs, Folkestone and Dover, said: "The cuts were certainly not as bad as all further education colleges expected. The chancellor promised that the 16 and 17-year-old funding rate would be fixed for the next four years; if it had fallen that would have been a devastating blow.

"In addition, the apprenticeship levy seems to suggest the government's focus on this sort of training is going to intensify giving colleges such as ours a great opportunity to work with large employers to increase apprenticeships.

"However, as ever, the devil is in the detail, so we will wait to see how all of the announcements play out."



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LOCAL AUTHORITIES: PAIN WILL CONTINUE TO BE FELT

IN an era which has been dominated by the word 'devolution', few local authorities can have expected that with more responsibility would come a giant stride towards being told they must also become self-sufficient.

But that is certainly the impression as local councils face yet more reductions.

It is estimated authorities across the nation will be facing a total of £4.1bn off the total hand-out from government – and that has made many concerned over the long term repercussions.

But they have been told they can pocket business rates and told they can keep all the cash generated by sales of land – a move which will prompt fears from some of a mass off-loading of publicly-owned prime sites in order to plug the financial gaps.

Lord Porter, chairman of the Local Government Association, feared the worse. He said: "Tragically, the government looks set to miss a once in a generation opportunity to transform the way money is spent across the public sector and protect the services that bind communities together, improve people's quality of life and protect the most vulnerable."

One announcement made by the chancellor with regards to council funding was that local authorities would be able to impose a two per cent increase on council tax, which would bring in up to £2bn to help fund adult social care.

However, this was met with criticism from the Labour group at KCC. The group's party leader, Gordon Cowan, said: "We have now reached the point of no return. Cuts will have to be imposed that will hit the whole community.

"The provision of a council tax levy can't possibly meet the shortfall in adult social care."

But KCC leader Paul Carter came out fighting, admitting he was still fuming at criticism from opposition leaders, reported in KoS earlier this month, who felt he hadn't done enough to stand up for the needs of local government.



Attacking Cllr Cowan, he said "He is a lunatic who knows nothing about what goes on. Saying we didn't lobby extremely hard is a quite outrageous thing to say.

"With regards to the social care levy, where do you think that comes from? It's a direct result of us lobbying and standing up for these needs.

"We could be in a better position but we are under pressure to meet the needs of elderly people in particular and it's important for care providers to get a fair crack of the whip.

"It's a shame it's from taxation but the money has to come from somewhere and at least we now have a workable way forward.

"Having said that it's still going to be a very challenging time in the coming years."

As for selling off sites, Cllr Carter added: "We make the very best use of redundant public assets and land that has been sold in the past by the council has been well invested."

However, Alan Jarrett, Tory leader of Medway Council, felt asking local authorities to use this method to essentially replace the revenue support grant, which is being scrapped, was unsustainable.

He told KoS: "If what Mr Osborne is saying is that this is how we have to generate a lot of our income, then that's the economics of a mad-house, because it's completely unsustainable, there's only so much you can sell.

"If that's what he's suggesting then someone needs to sit down and explain economics to him.

"Generally I think the situation is bad but not as bad as it could have been, and there are small crumbs of good news.

"The demand for adult social care is rising and I'm grateful that money will be available for this very important need."

Opposition leader Vince Maple agreed that there was too much pressure being placed on the sale of assets.

He said: "The chancellor's 'long term economic plan' is clearly failing and he is out of ideas to protect front line services.

"Forcing local councils to foot the bill of those services by selling off their assets is not a sustainable policy.

"What George Osborne hasn't answered is what happens when the money runs out from those asset sales. That's because he doesn't have an answer.

"The truth is that once that money is gone councils will have no choice to cut local front line services.

"Services such as libraries, swimming pools, leisure centres and so much more are a vital part of life to residents in Medway – they can't afford to see those services cut."

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Hoo knew the remarkable past still visible on peninsula marsh?

A book published this week sheds remarkable light on some fascinating long forgotten chapters in the county's history including fake oil depots to trick German bombers to bizarre duck channels

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE remarkable secrets of the Hoo Peninsula - which include an elaborate rare 17th-century pond built to trap ducks and a giant decoy oil depot built to deceive Nazi bombers during the Second World War - are being gathered together in a new book published this week.

It also reveals the history of an obelisk on Grain which marks the historic boundary of London's reach down the coast.

The Hoo Peninsula Landscape by Sarah Newsome, Edward Carpenter and Peter Kendall was released on Thursday and is put together by Historic England – the organisation previously known as English Heritage.

Sarah Newsome, senior investigator at Historic England said: "The duck decoy pond and oil decoy we investigated are fascinating examples, centuries apart, of the rich history of the Hoo Peninsula.

"These historic sites represent so many aspects of human activity, from putting food on the table to the preservation of life itself during the Second World War. Through this project, we have revealed that the Hoo has a complex history that goes beyond the familiar Dickensian idea of a low-lying land of misty marshes.

"The heritage of the Hoo Peninsula has until now been little known beyond the local area, despite being only 30 miles from the capital. "

Historic England experts have researched and mapped the landscape, archaeology and development of the area.

On the advice of Historic England, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has granted protection to four sites – bombing decoy site at Allhallows, a duck decoy pond at Halstow Marshes and two London boundary stones at Yantlet Creek and Upnor.

DUCK DECOY POND, HALSTOW MARSHES



THE well-preserved and partly-waterfilled remains of a 17th-century duck decoy pond on Halstow Marshes is the only surviving example of four such ponds that are known to have existed in Kent.

Ponds like these were introduced into England from the Netherlands and were often built by the gentry, gaining popularity during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Duck decoy ponds consisted of a central pond with a number of curving and gradually narrowing channels leading away from the main body of water. These channels, known as pipes, were enclosed with netting, and wildfowl that had settled on the pond were lured to the end of the pipes and caught.

Around 200 duck decoy ponds are known to have existed in England, mainly in the wetlands along the east coast from Yorkshire to Essex. The others in Kent include: Nagden Marshes near Oare, now only visible as a cropmark; Grovehurst decoy at Coldharbour Marshes, Sittingbourne now built over; and Kemsley, Kemsley Marshes, where no trace survives.



OIL DEPOT BOMBING DECOY, ALLHALLOWS, GRAIN

THE Second World War bombing decoy site at Allhallows was built by Winston Churchill's Petroleum Board in 1941 as part of a national programme of homeland defences to draw enemy attack away from real fuel storage facilities.

During 1941-42, there were nearly 840 decoy sites in operation, ranging from dummy airfields and oil installations to decoy towns on fire.

The Allhallows decoy was situated around three kilometres to the north-west of a large complex of around 100 real oil storage tanks on the Isle of Grain.

Remarkably, the entire decoy complex can still be seen in the landscape today, either as vegetation marks, structural remains or as archaeological features.

They include five oil pools in the shape of rings and crescents and channels which held burning fuel.

When set alight and viewed from above, the shapes created gave the impression of burning oil drums and storage tanks.

The decoy was ignited electrically from a remote control building, the remains of which are also still visible.



LONDON BOUNDARY STONES AT YANTLET CREEK AND UPNOR

THE London Stone Yantlet Creek, which has just been listed, dates to 1856 and was erected on the Isle of Grain.

It has strong historic interest as the final obelisk to be erected by the City of London to mark the eastern boundary of the City's jurisdiction over the River Thames. It also serves as a memorial to places along the River Thames and Medway where ceremonies were conducted by the Lord Mayor of London.

Because the River Thames was vital to the economic health of the City of London, the City exerted control over the Thames beyond the City's own boundaries. From the 12th century until the mid-19th century, it held jurisdiction over part of the River Thames and part of the River Medway and these boundaries were marked by both natural features and boundary stones. The City lost its control of rights on the river to the Crown in 1857 under the Thames Conservancy Act.

In order to remind people to observe the boundaries, the Lord Mayor of London and other officials made seven-yearly visits along the river. These trips would last about three days and included ceremonies at the stones to assert the City's rights. The crowds who came along to watch the proceedings were rewarded with wine, beer and coins.



An obelisk erected in 1836 named New London Stone at Upnor has been listed and a nearby smaller 18th century boundary marker, London Stone at Upnor has been re-listed and its description on the National Heritage List for England expanded. They were erected to mark the southern boundary of the City of London's jurisdiction over the River Medway.

GRAB A COPY OF THE BOOK...

THE Hoo Peninsula Landscape by Sarah Newsome, Edward Carpenter and Peter Kendall is priced at £14,99.

It is part of Historic England's 'Informed Conservation' series which highlights the special character of some of England's most important historic areas and the development pressures they are facing today.



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TESTING TIMES: Talks were being held on Thursday and Friday at Acas aimed at averting a strike by junior doctors, who are angered by changes to their contracts by the government

Hospitals brace for strike action as doctors prepare for walk-out

Talks at Acas continue this weekend in a bid to resolve pay issues prior to Tuesday's 24-hour strike...

AS CRUNCH talks continue this weekend in a bid to avert the strike by junior doctors on Tuesday, patients and health chiefs alike are bracing themselves for significant disruption.

Talks at the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) began on Thursday with representatives from the British Medical Association (BMA) meeting with government officials.

The row centres around changes to their contracts. While it includes an 11 per cent basic pay rise, there are a number of issues which have left junior doctors fuming. These include the number of hours during the working week classed as "unsociable" – and thereby attracting an extra payment – being reduced.

The government says it wants to make weekend working cheaper and therefore easier for managers to roster.

Many fear they will actually see a reduction in the amount they are paid while working the same number of hours.

Unless an agreement is made – and on Friday there was "cautious optimism" of a resolve – 45,000 will walk out across England, providing only emergency cover.

It would be the first of three planned strikes.

Patients across Kent could be hit hard as a result with appointments and some minor operations likely to be postponed as a result.

In reality, the term junior doctors can take in those with 10 years of frontline experience; key figures vital for the running of hospitals.

Kent County councillor Mike Eddy is Labour's spokesman on the health, overview and scrutiny committee.

He told us: "Someone said to me recently, to make this simple to understand, if you have 100 apples and someone comes along and gives you 11 more, but takes away 49 you do not have 100 apples any more.

"And that is what the government is offering. I think this has been extremely badly handled by the secretary of state Jeremy Hunt."

Basic pay for a junior doctor just starting out is fairly low at £23,000 but today on average they are getting £36,000 thanks to extra payments for working unsocial hours. Registrars get £52,000.

Adds Mr Eddy: "The junior doctors play an extremely important role throughout the whole of the health service.

"We have got a massive crises anyway in terms of recruiting and retention of doctors. The last thing we need is an aggressive and frankly totally and utterly misguided secretary of state going in with both barrels blazing."

So is strike action the right step to take? "It is up to them," said Mr Eddy. "It is going to make life very difficult for the health service and the patients, so I regret that, but it is the only tool left in the box they can use."

As for going to Acas, he added: "On the basis of the secretary's current behaviour, we have to wonder whether he is sensible enough to even accept the recommendations of Acas.

"Patients must always come first but the secretary is putting them last."

Robert Brookbank is the Conservative chairman of KCC's health overview and scrutiny committee.

He told KoS: "The rights and wrongs of the strike is up to them to explain themselves and justify what they are doing.

"Patients are always of concern and I think you will find, to be fair to them, they are always conscious for the need to make arrangements to ensure the safety of patients."

Dr Paul Hobday is a former National Health Action Party general election candidate. Before retiring he was a GP in Maidstone for 30 years.

He told us the dispute has been handled appallingly.

He said: "It is a bad thing the doctors have been driven this far so they are willing to go on strike.

"What is interesting is the whole of the medical profession is behind the junior doctors - there are no splits in the BMA. I have never seen a workforce so unified – they are rock solid on this.

"These new contracts will affect patient safety and the future of the NHS. I think Jeremy Hunt wants these strikes to go ahead so the government can tell us all the NHS isn't working and we need to find something else. And that means an American style insurance system to pay for anything beyond routine.

"He is portraying the junior doctors as money-grabbing people who don't care about the patients. He realises his career is on the line if he doesn't resolve this quickly.



CRITICISED: Jeremy Hunt

"And then we have Bruce Keogh, the head of the NHS, asking junior doctors if they would be available 'within one hour' if there was a Paris style attack. That was disgraceful and shows what the doctors are up against.

"With so many of the doctors looking to move to Australia [amid concerns over the contract changes many are reportedly heading to work Down Under instead] it is like they have a death wish on the backbone of the NHS, which is what the junior doctors are."

It is possible some non-urgent surgeries could be affected on Tuesday if the strike goes ahead, things like knee and hip replacements, along with some routine clinics may close for the day.

We contacted the Medway Foundation Trust, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, plus Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, which combined cover most of the county's major hospitals, but none had anyone available for comment.

The Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust said: "We are currently assessing what effect the junior doctors' industrial action will have on patient services.

"If it becomes necessary to reschedule any appointments, it will be based upon clinical priority and each patient will be offered a new date."

NHS England South said: "NHS England has tried and tested plans to deal with a range of disruptions including industrial action. The safety and care of patients is our top priority. We have been working with providers across the region to ensure we can continue to protect the safety of our patients and provide the urgent services they need.

"We will continue to monitor the situation across the region to ensure these plans are in place, and are ready to respond to any significant increases in pressure in any area over the course of this dispute.

"We would also urge people to take extra care of their own health over this period – and to look out for more vulnerable members of their families and communities. In the event that people do need medical help or advice they are strongly encouraged to use NHS Choices or NHS 111 in the first instance, if possible."

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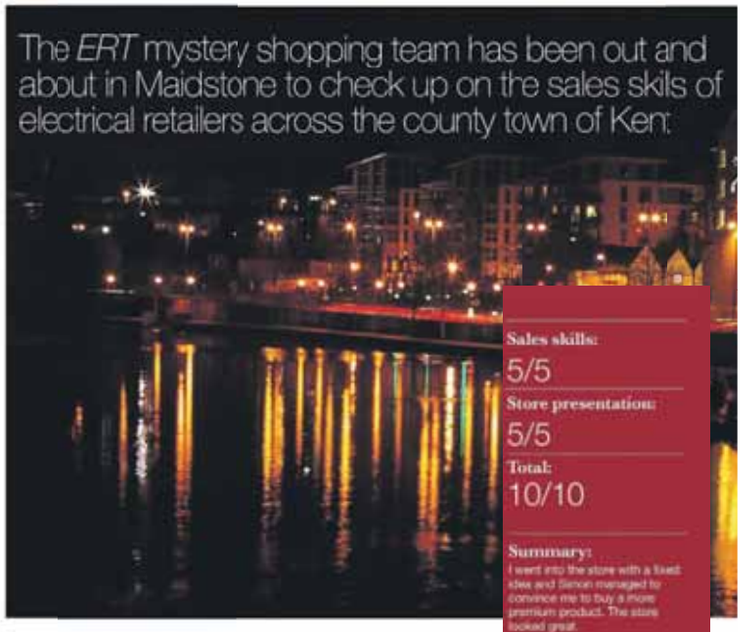
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Shopfloor TAKE A TOWN

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Maidstone

The *ERT* mystery shopping team has been out and about in Maidstone to check up on the sales skills of electrical retailers across the county town of Kent.



Sales skills:
5/5

Store presentation:
5/5

Total:
10/10

Summary:
I went into the store with a fixed idea and Simon managed to convince me to buy a more premium product. The store looked great.

Home Media, Union Street

THIS store was in a prominent location on Union Street, just off the town centre.

I was going there to look at a multi-room system and Simon, who was standing outside, welcomed me in and asked if I needed any help.

I told him that I had read about Sonos in various magazines, however, he suggested that I look at products from the Naim range. The first product he presented was the Naim UnitiQute 2, which was priced at £1,295.

Simon described the product as an all-in-one audio player and said that music downloads, high-resolution music files, internet radio, Bluetooth, network music, iPod/MP3 players – everything that the new era of music delivery might throw at it, the UnitiQute 2 could play.

The second model Simon presented was the Naim ND5XS, which was priced at £2,145.

Simon said the ND5XS featured high-resolution network streaming and had Spotify Connect built-in. He added that it also offered USB/iPod playback, access to thousands of internet radio stations, DAB/FM radio and digital inputs for external sources.

Simon demonstrated the ND5XS, firstly playing BBC Radio 3 and then he selected a couple of Diana Krall tracks, which were streamed from a NAS drive in the shop.



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CHOPPY: Problems on the cross-Channel route

Coach boss in call to protect Channel trade

Migrant crisis in Calais has forced number of day-trippers and coach tours to decline this year

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MIGRANT activity in the Channel Tunnel has had a detrimental impact on the day trip business operating from Dover to Calais, according to a local coach service.

Lynn Woods, CEO of the Hythe-based Buzzlines admitted this year's disruption has caused the business problems, and is calling on the government to do more to help resolve the issue.

He told KoS: "It remains a long term concern to this business that the situation in Calais remains unresolved.

"There has been a substantial decline this year in cross-Channel school and group travel business and much as we welcome the government's determination to tackle Operation Stack, we think that is incidental to the root issue and that is the migrant threat in Calais, now spreading to other Channel and North Sea ports.

"This Calais dimension has retreated from the headlines because doubtless the news media feel it's reached saturation and people are fed up with hearing about it.

"But it goes on and represents a constant threat to smooth operation of services, requiring a great deal of extra work and contingency spending on our part, like sending two drivers on day trips because of the risk that a delay will cause a single driver to run out of hours [drivers are regulated on the amount of hours they can drive without a break].

"And we cannot understand why the government is not doing anything to induce continental freight on to the railways."

French businessman Thaddée Segard, who lives in the French port, agreed there was a clear effect on day-tripper trade over the summer, but the widespread criticism of those in Calais was unfair.

He said: "The impact has been extremely dramatic and in July and August a lot of businesses suffered, particularly shops in local shopping centres but also bars and restaurants as well.

"They suffered a loss of between 15 and 20 per cent in business compared with what they had before, which was because of the strength of the pound.

"A lot of people have seen the reports on television and I think they were afraid of coming here so there has been a strong effect.

"The migrants have been in Calais for 15 years but they were never mentioned and it was not an issue until a couple of months ago.

"Maybe these are a little bit more aggressive in terms of getting through fences and things like that because they are so desperate to get to the UK.

"But talk to anyone who shops in Calais and they will say that it's very peaceful. The migrants in the area are friendly and polite and there is no aggressive movement in the town."

Though Doug Kempster at the Port of Dover admitted it was difficult to identify any kind of correlation between the crisis and the number of passengers crossing the Channel.

He said: "It's a really complex issue and there can be so many variables that impact on passenger numbers that it's next to impossible to put a figure on the migrant impact.

"Certainly the situation contributed to the summer of disruption but, in port terms, there were also major strikes in Calais which had a massive impact on our operations.

"Plus, to further complicate matters, closures of the Channel Tunnel tend to lead to an increase in port activity rather than a decrease as travellers try to take alternative routes."

Mr Segard added that he believes people will begin to flock back over the Channel during the festive period.

"I expect the day trip business to boom again, because when people think of Christmas, they think of food and alcohol and France is obviously very popular for these things," he said.

"The UK is coming out of a recession time, people are enjoying a much better standard of living than two years ago, and they want to treat and enjoy themselves."

Runners and riders get ready in the race for police commissioner

Ann Barnes has had a rollercoaster term in office and continues to stall on a public decision on if she will stand again when the county goes to the polls next May. So who is in the frame to replace her?

By Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk

THE Conservative candidate wanting to become the county's next police and crime commissioner says Ann Barnes has "let the county down" during her term in office.

The main political parties are currently in the process of selecting their candidates to run in next May's election for a position which continues to be shrouded in controversy.

And the fight for the role is likely to intensify going into the new year, with both the Conservatives and Ukip likely to be hot favourites.

Mrs Barnes swept to success in all constituencies when she stood for election in 2012 as an independent candidate. The former Kent Police Authority chief brought with her the necessary experience to convince the majority of the 16 per cent of electors who turned out to vote – suggesting many were apathetic to the role.

But her term in office has been dogged by negative headlines which have drowned out the positives and left many to consider her almost unelectable should she choose to defend her position.

That, however, seems increasingly unlikely as she continues to refuse to commit to standing again.

Matthew Scott, from Swanley, has been named the Conservative candidate.

No stranger to politics, he is currently office manager for government whip David Evenett.

He has immediately pledged to slash £10,000 off the post's £85,000 salary were he to be elected.

He explained to KoS this week: "The role has to be filled, and the police and crime commissioner is a great chance for people to democratically elect a representative in the police, and hold them to account.

"I think Ann Barnes has let the role of PCC down, and I think she has let the people of the county down throughout her time in office."

Mrs Barnes has seen a number of PR campaigns backfire dramatically - including the hiring of a youth commissioner who, it later transpired, had tweeted unpleasant comments and her appearance in a Channel 4 documentary which saw her unable to explain her own job.

Adds Mr Scott: "The role should be reflective of the people's concerns; I would have a focus on the police's treatment of people with mental health problems.

"Whilst I've no experience as a police officer, I've seen first hand the effects of policing, my father is a retired police officer and my brother serves on the force,

"Throughout their time I've heard about the problems police face and I've always had an interest.

"I believe a commissioner should lead by example, that's why I'm promising to cut the PCC salary by £10,000 if I am elected.

"The entire office needs a rethink, to make sure we're focused on the needs of the people, as well as catering to urgent needs including mental health, cyber crime and tackling terrorism."

Created by the home secretary, the role was designed to replace the old police authorities with a high profile figurehead, who would be accountable to the public and oversee the actions of the chief constable. The role has no direct impact on operational issues - that remains with the top ranking officer - but does hold the chief constable to account.

Ukip's rise up the polls across the county - it is the main opposition on Kent County Council and came runner-up in a number of constituencies across the county during May's general election - would suggest the party will be a serious contender.

Their candidate is no-nonsense former soldier and police officer Henry Bolton. Currently working on international security issues for the UK government, he was a little kinder on Ann Barnes' reign and, perhaps not surprisingly for Ukip, is keen to reinforce our borders.

He explained: "I think the current commissioner has done some great work in responding to crime and offering victim support.

"But more needs to be done to prevent harm, whatever form of crime that may be. Work needs to be done on border management to prevent organised crime coming in, which has an impact on lower level crime throughout the county.

"Across the country, we've seen heroin and cocaine related deaths increase massively, 60 per cent and 120 per cent respectively.

"These drugs can't be sourced from the UK, its just one example of the sort of impact organised crime can have if border controls aren't properly managed.

"The strengthening of the bond between the police and all Kent communities will be fundamental, we need to make sure people are not detached from the police, as without people we could lose a key source of information on the state of an area.

"If people are not calling the police because a window has broken or their car has been scratched, then its only when something serious happens that the police will know what is going on in an area."

Labour, given a bloody nose at May's polling stations by the county, has traditionally been opposed to the PCC role – promising to abolish it nationally if Ed Miliband had presided over a victory earlier this year.

It has yet to confirm its candidate - but will do so after a series of local meetings on January 23.

Medway Labour councillor for the Luton and Wayfield ward Tristan Osborne has put his name forward to be selected. Mr Osborne said: "We're taking this election very seriously I'm very much in it to win it.

"Kent is a difficult area, as we have no MPs elected across the county, but we will be competing and looking to win.

"I myself have experience as a special constable at Metropolitan Police in Greenwich and Charlton."

Steve Uncles for the English Democrats has also confirmed he will run again, while the Liberal Democrats say they are yet to make a decision. The Greens oppose the role and will not take part.

Ann Barnes insists she has made no decision on whether to stand yet.

The main question this time, however, is whether the people of Kent care enough to cast a vote. The hope is that with the election next year coinciding with local elections, the turn-out will be more than double that of the first year.

The election takes place on May 5, 2016.



UNDECIDED: Ann Barnes swept to power in 2012 - but remains undecided on standing again in 2016



TORY: Matthew Scott



LABOUR: Tristan Osborne



UKIP: Henry Bolton



ENGLISH DEMS: Steve Uncles



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A Kentish Christmas 2015



THERE is no season which brings with it quite so much anticipation, so much excitement and so much fun as Christmas.

It seems to reignite our childhood memories; of smiles, laughter, kindness and warmth.

And with the first window of advent calendars being opened on Tuesday, the countdown is very much on to the 2015 festive season.

As ever, the county has an abundance of retail and leisure opportunities geared up to ensure your Christmas is one to remember this year.

Inside this edition of our popular A Kentish Christmas, we highlight everything from adult advent calendars. top make-up tips for the festive season, wrapping paper that is raising money for good causes and where the best pantomimes can be found.

We also take a look at Star Wars themed presents on offer this year and a new snow sports range that has been launched.

What's more, our loyal advertisers are showcasing a host of events and services which they believe will help to add to the sparkle of this Christmas - so be sure to check them out as you enjoy this special edition of A Kentish Christmas.

We may still be a few weeks away from the big day itself, but there's no time like the present to ensure that you start preparing in advance.

It will allow you time to put your feet up and enjoy the very special atmosphere of the festive season, and welcome in your family and friends to enjoy the celebrations.

So we hope you enjoy... A Kentish Christmas.



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Gift wrap raising funds for charity



CHRISTMAS is fast approaching, and many people will have already started buying the presents that they will be giving to their families and loved ones this year.

And when it comes to wrapping those presents, there is an opportunity to give money to a charitable cause.

WHSmith has released three gift wrap bundles, which will be raising funds for Marie Curie, RSPCA and Save The Children.

The WHSmith cutting guide is featured on the reverse side of each roll, helping those who are wrapping the presents to cut in straight lines.

Each bundle is priced at £3.49.

Here are the different varieties which are available to buy:

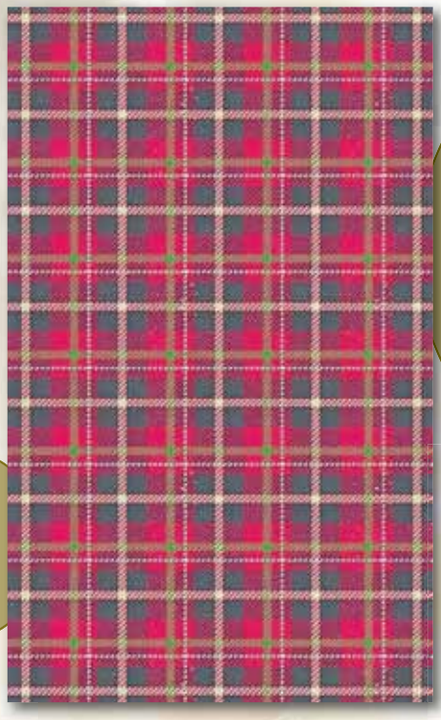


WHSmith Marie Curie christmas wrap
Two rolls of wrapping paper are featured in this package, each with a different nordic knit pattern. The rolls are three metres long.





WHSmith RSPCA
There are two rolls of gift wrap, one which has a tartan pattern and one with a stag design. Each roll is three metres long.

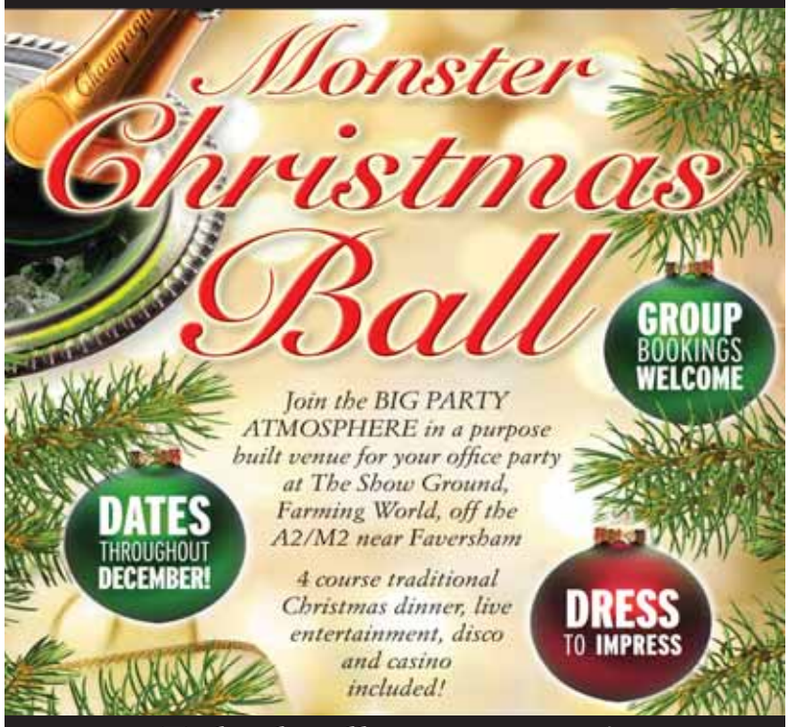


WHSmith Save The Children
This gift wrap has two rolls, which both feature the same design - with a pattern including reindeers and Christmas trees. Each roll measures three metres.



FOR more information about what is on offer visit whsmith.co.uk or visit your local WHSmith store.

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80'S & 90'S DISCO PARTY NIGHT
Friday 4 December
7pm - 12.30am

Fork Food by Follies, 7pm – 8.30pm

Boeuf Bourguignon with pilaff rice
or
Mushroom Chasseur with pilaff rice (v)

Apollo Funk Entertainment DJ, 8pm – 12pm
Sing and dance to the music that shaped a whole generation, nostalgia guaranteed!

Dressing up for the era optional –
Prize for Best Dressed on the night!
Full Cash Bar open throughout the evening!

60'S & 70'S RETRO PARTY NIGHT
Saturday 5 December
7pm - 12.30am

Fork Food by Follies, 7pm – 8.30pm

Hawaiian pineapple chicken
or
Mushroom, spinach pilau with fried onions (v)

Apollo Funk Entertainment DJ, 8pm – 12pm
Let's take you on journey from Rock N Roll to Motown with music and dance from these extraordinary decades.

Dressing up for the era optional –
Prize for Best Dressed on the night!
Full Cash Bar open throughout the evening!

NOUGHTIES TO NOW PARTY NIGHT
Friday 11 December
7pm - 12.30am

Fork Food by Follies, 7pm – 8.30pm

Chicken & apricot tagine served with minted cous cous
or
Aubergine & sweet potato tagine served with minted cous cous (v)

Apollo Funk Entertainment DJ, 8pm – 12pm
Current, fresh, music from the Millennium to Now!

Dress code, Go Glam!
Prize for Best Dancer on the night!
Full Cash Bar open throughout the evening!

CARIBBEAN CLUB PARTY NIGHT
Saturday 12 December
7pm - 12.30am

Fork Food by Follies, 7pm – 8.30pm

Jamaican jerk chicken wings with rice & peas
or
Sweet potato, Callaloo coconut curry with rice & peas (v)

Apollo Funk Entertainment DJ, 8pm – 12pm
What winter blues? With Soca, Reggae & Salsa bringing the sunshine in to December, we're feeling Hot Hot Hot!

Dressing up optional
Prize for Best Dressed on the night!
Full Cash Bar open throughout the evening!

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Sat 28th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Sun 29th - 11am til 4pm

December

Fri 4th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Sat 5th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Sun 6th - 11am til 4pm
Thurs 10th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Fri 11th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Sat 13th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Sun 13th - 11am til 4pm
Thurs 17th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Fri 18th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Sat 19th - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Sun 20th - 11am til 4pm
Mon 21st - 10.30am til 4.30pm
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Wed 23rd - 10.30am til 4.30pm
Thurs 24th - 10.30am til 4.30pm

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The ideal present for snow-seekers

PERFORMANCE clothing brand Musto has released its first ever snow sports range - available in time for Christmas.

If you know any keen snow sports fans and you want to splash out on a nice present for them, Musto have plenty of options - with a selection of jackets and trousers which could be worn on the slopes.

Musto has utilised thier expertise and technology to help create the items.

Pieces featured in their new snow sports range include:

Matthiessen BR1 PrimaLoft jacket: A serious piece of kit for winter snow-seekers, this jacket features a four-way stretch shell fabric and articulated sleeves to provide freedom of movement in this waterproof, breathable and windproof kit.

The jacket features a removable, helmet-compatible hood, lycra inner cuffs with thumb holes and a zip away neck warmer plus a snow skirt compatible with the Dolpo BR1 Pants. The asymmetric zip means extra comfort beneath your chin. It is available in blue and black.



NEW: The range is available in stores and online

Dolpo BR1 PrimaLoft pants: An integrated fastening system means the Dolpo BR1 Primaloft pants combine perfectly with the Matthiessen Jacket, to offer complete winter weather protection.

They feature Primaloft Black Insulation Eco, providing a fantastic warmth-to-weight ratio with exceptional comfort against the skin, while four-way stretch BR1 fabric keeps the weather out and allows you to move freely.

Sleek, minimalist styling, coupled with sector-leading technologies, make the Dolpo Pants a superior kit choice for this ski season.



VARIETY: A selection of items are included in the new range

Every Gore-Tex Jacket: For the extreme snow sports enthusiast looking for high-performance technical ability, Musto is proud to introduce the Every Jacket.

This high-performance garment offers extreme functionality with fitted styling and three-Layer Gore-Tex fabric.

Attention to detail is unprecedented and features such as reflective taping for high-visibility in poor conditions, a three-way adjustable hood, elasticated gripper powder skirt and extensive concealed pocketing allow for a truly superior ski or snowboard experience. The Every Jacket is available in both men's and women's and comes in Black.

The Snowdr BR1 Primaloft Pants: The pants feature mesh inserts for ventilation and articulated knees for maximum movement.

Boot gaiters and a high-rise waistband keep the wearer warm and dry whilst understated shades of black and white ensure a sleek, sophisticated silhouette. Reflective print also features to keep the wearer visible.

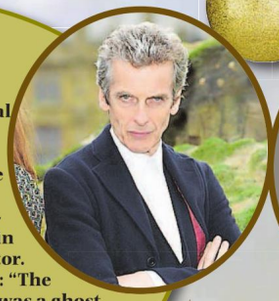
The new range is available from Musto stores nationwide or alternatively items can be purchased online at www.musto.com.



Top 10 Christmas TV shows to enjoy over the festive period

With Christmas just a few weeks away, here is a list of 10 of the Christmas specials that you can expect to see on your screens.

DOCTOR WHO





The big news for this year's special is that time traveller Professor River Song, who first appeared back in 2008, will return. It's the first time River Song, played by Alex Kingston, has met her husband in his latest incarnation - in the form of Peter Capaldi's Doctor. Lead writer Steven Moffat notes: "The last time the Doctor saw her, she was a ghost. The first time he met her, she died. So how can he be seeing her again? As ever, with the most complicated relationship in the universe, it's a matter of time."

TEXT SANTA



ITV hosts its glitzy, fun-packed annual Text Santa appeal, now in its fifth year. Phillip Schofield kicks things off on December 1, when he 'does his bit in a Christmas knit' and invades every show on the ITV schedule from 6am to 10pm. Viewers will be asked to tweet #Pipknit when they see him pop up, in a TV equivalent of Where's Wally. As for the big night, George Clooney's cameo appearance in Downton Abbey is going to take some beating, but expect some familiar faces making fools of themselves, in the hope you'll dig deep and support the Text Santa charities.



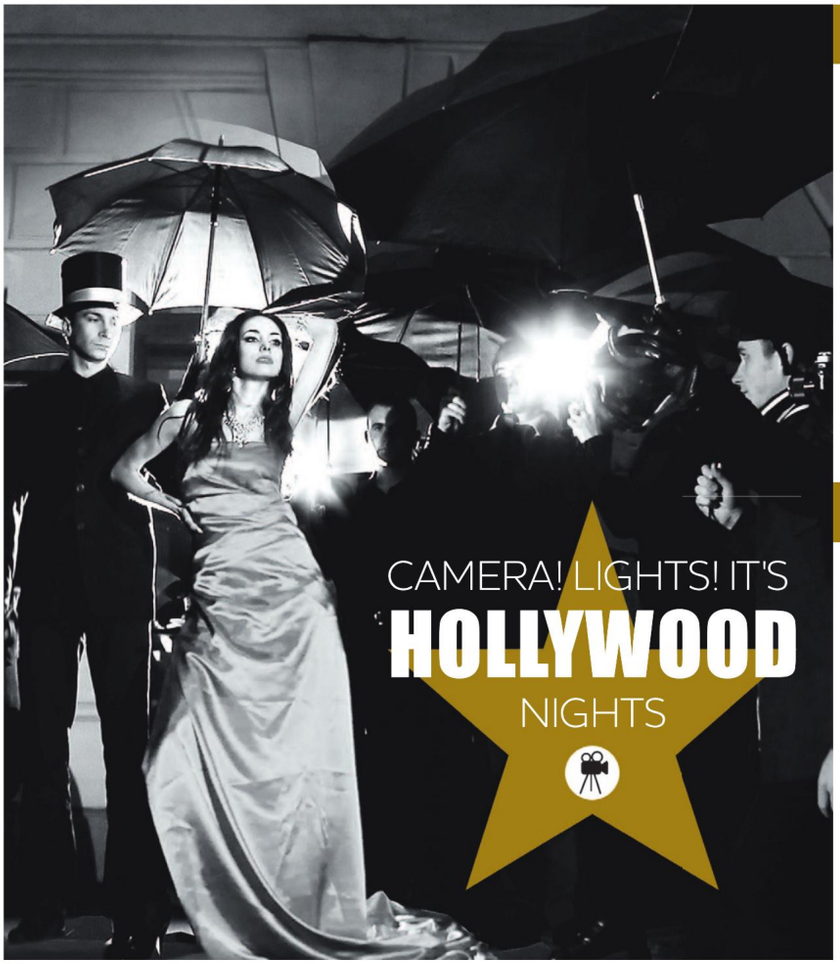
SHERLOCK: THE ABOMINABLE BRIDE

Co-written by Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, this one-off special sees Cumberbatch and Freeman reunite for a standalone story set in London, 1895. Sherlock's nemesis, Moriarty, might be missing from the teaser trailer, but he's set to face new enemies in this Victorian adventure. And if it's not enough to see your favourite detective on the small screen, pop along to the cinema; it's set for a big-screen outing on the same night.

DOWNTON ABBEY



It won't have escaped your attention that this is the last ever episode, and we're promised there will be 'all the love, loss, happiness and heartbreak' we've come to exapect from Julian Fellowes' seminal period drama. As the characters prepare to welcome in the New Year of 1926, Lady Mary endeavours to build bridges with her estranged sister Edith; Harry settles into his role as husband and stepfather, but finds his place at Downton more difficult, while downstairs, Carson faces some personal challenges.



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AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

It was Agatha Christie's bestselling crime novel, and now an all-star cast will bring the story to life in a new TV series. Set in 1939, with Europe teetering on the brink of war, 10 strangers are invited to Soldier Island, off the coast of Devon. Cut off from the mainland, and with their hosts absent, each guest is accused of a terrible crime, and when one of the party suddenly dies, they soon realise they might be harbouring a murderer among their number.



WE'RE DOOMED! THE DAD'S ARMY STORY

Ahead of next year's big-screen outing of Dad's Army, starring the likes of Catherine Zeta-Jones, Bill Nighy and Michael Gambon, BBC Two will be airing a one-off 60-minute drama about the much adored comedy's legendary creators Jimmy Perry and David Croft. Starting with Perry's initial idea in 1967 and running through to the transmission of the first episode in 1968, it details how the pair overcame scepticism from BBC bosses and focus groups, along with production difficulties and the personality clashes they faced.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC LIVE!

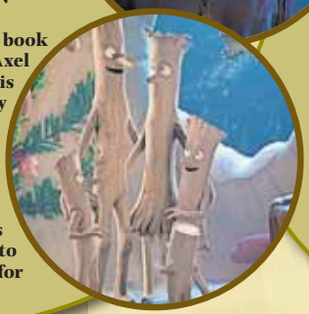


Christmas isn't Christmas without the Sound Of Music making an appearance on the box. This year, expect a twist when a brilliant cast, led by Kara Tointon as Maria, brings the timeless tale to life on the sound-stages of London's 3 Mills Studios, in an ambitious two-and-a-half-hour production which will be transmitted to TV-viewers live. Audiences at home can sing along to the likes of How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria, Edelweiss and Do-Re-Mi. And if singing isn't your thing, it'll be worth tuning in to see if they can pull it all off!



STICK MAN

Based on the bestselling children's book by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler, the half-hour animation is set to be a treat for the whole family this festive season. Produced by Magic Light Pictures, the team behind the adaptations of The Gruffalo and Room On The Broom, and voiced by the likes of Bonneville, Freeman and Saunders, it tells the story of a stick man's attempts to make it back to his family in time for Christmas.



CALL THE MIDWIFE

Before the new series kicks off in January, fans of Call The Midwife can look forward to a one-off Christmas special. As the deprived area of Poplar readies itself for the 1960 festive season, there's a bus trip to see the Regent Street lights and a visit from a BBC film crew, promising to make it a Christmas to remember. But it's not all happiness and good cheer. It's a difficult time for grieving mother Iris and at Nonnatus House, things are tense, as Sister Monica Joan determines to bring in the festive spirit early, despite Sister Evangelina's disgust. As the community pulls together to prepare for a televised carol concert, Nonnatus is rocked when one of their own goes missing.

DICKENSIAN



This new 20-part series is pretty ambitious, to say the least. The episodes will see the beloved characters created by Charles Dickens living next door to one another on one cobbled street. If it sounds soap-like, then that's no coincidence - it's written by EastEnders' former scriptwriter Tony Jordan. Described by one journalist as 'a beginners guide to Dickens', expect Oliver Twist's Mrs Bumble and Bleak House's Inspector Bucket to bump into the likes of Martin Chuzzlewit's Mrs Gamp and Great Expectations' Amelia Havisham.







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The best advent calendars for adults this Christmas

WE all remember the childhood magic of counting down the days to Christmas with the help of an advent calendar, but there's a growing trend in grown-ups treating themselves to the Yuletide tradition, too. So with that in mind, here are some of the best grown-up advent calendars on offer.



Seed advent calendar, £29.99

If you're lucky enough to have a garden or an allotment (or perhaps just a really ambitious window-box), you'll love this selection of 24 different varieties of seed. Supplied in beautifully-illustrated packets adorned with fascinating facts, they'll grow into plants to remind you of this thoughtful gift throughout the year.



Lego Star Wars advent calendar, £24.99

Okay, so Lego might technically be for kids, but we think this highly-collectible Star Wars advent calendar is best left for the grown-ups who can truly appreciate it. Just hang onto the packaging; it might be worth something some day.

Liberty beauty calendar, £149

This stylish advent calendar sold out last year, which is no surprise, as it contains over £400-worth of products for less than half the price. The luxury goodies on offer include a Diptyque candle, Eve Lom cleanser, and NARS make-up.





Hotel Chocolat calendars, £12.50-£26

For those who prefer something more traditional, Hotel Chocolat does chocolate advent calendars with serious cocoa content. Choose from milk, dark or white chocolate, or upgrade to the luxurious 'truffles for two' version and share the treats.

Lakrids liquorice advent calendar, £29.99

If you yearn for something darker, this gourmet truffle advent calendar won't disappoint. Made by Danish confectioners with quality raw ingredients, each window hides a gourmet experience.





Beard oil advent calendar, £29.99

Got a furry-faced fella in your life? Keep him looking groomed with this selection of scented beard oils, featuring flavours as diverse and manly as tobacco, fresh-cut grass and, er, 'steel'.

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Gifts for Star Wars fans this Christmas

IT's nearly time... time for that iconic Star Wars music to begin and time for Star Wars fans everywhere to delve into a new instalment of one of the best fantasy film series ever made.

Genie Gadgets has been waiting for this moment all year and to celebrate, they've sourced the best – and official – (let's not forget it's all authentic stuff) Star Wars bits and bobs out there so cue the music (just start humming it) as well as those obligatory light sabre sounds and let's get started...

TO see the full collection of Star Wars themed gifts on offer visit www.geniegadgets.com.



Stars Wars Darth Vader mask light

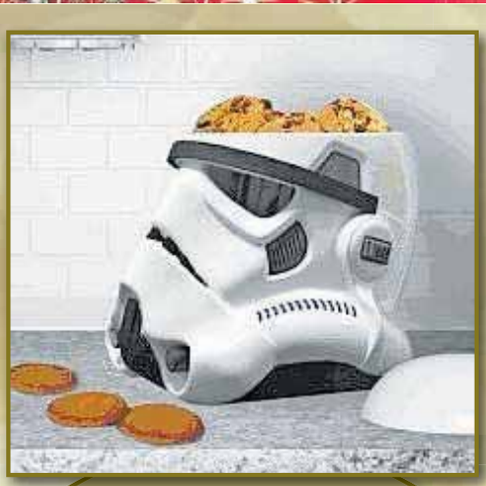
Yes, yes, we all know he's a baddie, but we all love a bit of Darth, don't we? And if you say you haven't covered your mouth and tried to mimic the deep, heavy Darth Vader breathing sounds, we don't believe you. So, get your mimic on and light up this mega-cool 3D LED light for villainous fun you never knew was possible. With a child friendly, cool to touch design, it is battery operated (no pesky cords) for ease of use too.

Star Wars Yoda 3D light

We all know that Yoda is the wisest of all Jedi's so cast a super green glow around the room with this cool 3D light complete with cracked effect sticker that makes it look like his head has crashed through the wall. With a child friendly, cool to touch design, it is battery operated for ease of use too. Cool light we have here... (Yes, yes, say that in a Yoda voice!)







Star Wars Storm Trooper cookie jar

Did you know that Stormtroopers have entered the cookie storage industry? And excellent cookie storage skills they have too. This cool white option will look particularly good in a modern kitchen too…

Star Wars R2D2 desktop vacuum

Keep your desk, kitchen table or worktop clean with the Star Wars R2-D2 Desktop Vacuum. Powered by USB (not the force), this nifty little gadget is intent on showing off his renowned vacuuming skills so you can start hoovering crumbs straight away… go on, release your inner neat freak (you know you want to).





Star Wars Droid salt and pepper shakers

Shake up mealtimes with this handy duo. A must for Star Wars fans or for anyone who wants something a little different on their kitchen table.

Christmas Fayre Lunches

There is no better place to have lunch with the office or catch up with old friends than the Coniston Kitchen restaurant, known for its mouth-watering food and friendly service. Enjoy a 2 or 3 course lunch with table service, Monday to Saturday.

Sittings from 12pm - 2pm
Lunch Menu: 2 courses £16.95 | 3 courses: £19.95

Starters

CHICKEN LIVER PATE Fruit chutney, balsamic dressing

CHILLED MELON Berry coulis, mixed berry compote

ROASTED TOMATO AND RED PEPPER SOUP Basil pesto

Mains

ROLLED BREAST OF TURKEY Filled with sage and cranberry stuffing, served with traditional trimmings

RED WINE BRAISED BLADE OF BEEF Thyme roasted potatoes

GRILLED SALMON FILLET Capper crushed potatoes, chive and lemon cream sauce

ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH, GOATS CHEESE AND SPINACH WELLINGTON Roasted new potatoes, cumin cream sauce

Desserts

TRADITIONAL CHRISMTAS PUDDING Brandy sauce

DUO OF CHOCOLATE MOUSSE Orange curd

VANILLA CHEESECAKE Winter berry compote

New Year's Eve Gala

Celebrate in style and enjoy a fabulous 5 course meal, then dance the night away. So get your glad rags and your dancing shoes on and set the New Year off with a bang.

Bar from 6pm - 1am : Sit down at 8pm : Disco closes at 1.30am

CANAPÉS ON ARRIVAL

Starters

CHAMPAGNE POACHED SALMON TERRINE Caper lemon dressing

LEEK, CHIVE AND MONTGOMERY'S CHEDDAR TART
Red onion marmalade

Mains

HONEY GLAZED DUCK BREAST
Spring onion crushed potatoes, roasted plum jus

BLACK PEPPER HERB CRUSTED FILLET OF BEEF
Caramelised onion layered potatoes, baby vegetables, peppercorn sauce

WILD MUSHROOM AND BUTTERNUT SQUASH OPEN LASAGNE
Garlic and herb crouton

Desserts

DARK CHOCOLATE AND ORANGE BROWNIE
Grand Marnier syrup, caramelised segments

WINTER BERRY ARTIC ROLL Mulled berry compote

Cheese Selection

BLUE CHEESE, MATURE CHEDDAR, GOAT'S CHEESE & BRIE
Grapes, cheese biscuits, spiced fruit chutney

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Your beauty guide for the Christmas parties

A little planning will go a long way in the run up to Christmas...

When it comes to parties, we can all agree that getting ready is half the fun, but in the run-up to Christmas, when mid-week soirees mean we don't have the luxury of lazy afternoons to primp and preen, the pressure really is on.

A little planning goes a long way, however, and with the right prep and products, you can transition from office to out on the town with ease - and keep your festive beauty mojo popping along with the Champagne corks.

These are the dozen daily essentials that will help you sail through party season...

EASY AS NAILS

A UV-cured manicure is your best bet for polish that will make it through the 12 days of Christmas chip-free, but if you haven't got time to get to the salon, a DIY gel effect polish, like Nailed London, will still go the distance.

You need a shade that will complement all your outfits, so dark or nude is best, and the Perfect Classics Collection, £24, Amazon, offers both.

Visit www.amazon.co.uk for details.

If you fancy a quick change then Nails Inc's innovative new Paint Can Spray Nail Polish, £10, cuts your manicure time in half.

Paint on a clear base coat, spray Hoxton Market liberally, finish with a top coat and wash the excess off for a hot pink hand makeover in minutes.

Visit www.nailsinc.com to find out more.



BODY BEAUTIFUL

We do more than our fair share of dashing around in December, so keep a can of Sure Women Crystal Invisible Black & White, currently reduced to £1.65 from £3.39 (available from www.superdrug.com), on hand, to freshen up while changing into your evening attire. Crucially, it won't leave marks, whether you're in an LBD or a white tux jacket.

Going tights-free in the deep mid-winter can be somewhat terrifying, but Sanctuary Spa Wonder Body, £8, will allay your flesh-baring fears. The moisturising lotion blurs, smoothes and adds a hint of colour and sheen. Visit www.sanctuary.com.



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A BREATH OF FRESH HAIR

December can take its toll on our bank balances and sometimes, a visit to you colourist just isn't an option. But you needn't worry about revealing regrowth, because there are now a plethora of root cover-up products on the market.
Most come as a powder or spray, but Kazumi Root Varnish, £30, is a gel formula that can be brushed onto wet or dry hair, allowing greater precision in five shades, from blonde to black.
Visit www.boots.com for details.

If lacklustre locks are a problem, dry shampoo will give them a new lease of life pre-party - or pep them up the morning after.
Aveda's new Shampure Dry Shampoo, £22, is a powder that you massage into your roots then brush out, adding volume and a fresh scent.
Visit www.aveda.co.uk for further information.





MULTI-TASKING MAKE-UP

If your desk becomes your dressing table right about now, a strict cosmetic edit is a must.
A palette will save you carting round a mountains of make-up, while also giving you flexibility to chop and change your look, should the mood take you.
Yves Saint Laurent Kiss & Love Makeup Palette, £59, offers interchangeable eye, lip and cheek options in a sweet kiss-print compact.
Visit www.houseoffraser.co.uk to purchase.
Pair it with Ecotools Mini Essentials Brush Set, £5.99, to create seductive eye make-up looks and perfectly flushed cheeks. Visit www.boots.com.

When boozy lunches have a tendency to bleed into cocktail hour and beyond, you need a lipstick that just won't quit. Laura Mercier's Velour Lovers Lip Colour, £22, comes in 12 matte shades of saucy-sounding colours, like hot pink Boudoir and Foreplay (the brightest red), the colour pay off matched only by its staying-power.
Available from www.johnlewis.com.

Can't decide on one shade? MAC Irresistibly Charming Pink Lip Gloss Kit, £26, consists of a quartet of rosy hues in handbag-ready mini tubes.
Visit www.maccosmetics.co.uk.

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner

STARTER
Broccoli & Stilton Soup
homemade soup served with garlic croutons
Grilled Asparagus & Artichoke
served with mixed salad & dressing
Homemade Chef's Fishcake
mixed smoked salmon & haddock served with Thai chilli dressing

CHAMPAGNE SORBET

MAIN
Surf & Turf
Filet of beef & king prawns served with fondant potato & homemade rich gravy
Traditional Roast Turkey
with sage & onion stuffing, pigs in blankets, Yorkshire pudding, honey roast parsnips & homemade rich gravy
Herb Crusted Fillet of Cod
served with new potatoes, spinach & white wine sauce
Chef's Goat Cheese Tart & Onion Marmalade
served with rocket leaf & balsamic dressing

DESSERTS
Christmas Pudding
served with brandy sauce or custard
Champagne & Raspberry Torte
Vanilla Cheesecake

A Selection of Cheese & Biscuits

Coffee & Mince Pies

£49.95 per person

Packages

FESTIVE DRINKS PACKAGES

4 Bottles of House Wine £55.00
(Any combination of red, white & rosé)
Plus 2 bottles of mineral water or a jug of orange juice.

Bottled Lager Package £25.00
10 bottles of 330ml guest lager

These special drinks packages are only available on a pre-order basis before your event.

Discounted pre-order wine list available, please ask for details.

OVERNIGHT PACKAGES

Package 1: 2 Night Package from 30th December
2 course à la carte meal in the Hythe Sea Lounge on the first night, full English breakfast in the morning. On 31st December enjoy our leisure facilities during the day & then in the evening celebrate New Year's Eve in style in our Lukin Suite with a 4 course dinner & entertainment until 1am. £189.95 per person sharing a standard twin/double.

Package 2: 1 Night from 31st December
Celebrate New Year's Eve in style in our Lukin Suite with a 4 course dinner & entertainment until 1am, full English breakfast the following morning. £122.45 per person sharing a standard twin/double. Packages must be pre-booked. A 20% deposit is due on booking & then the balance is due at the end of October. For bookings made after the end of October the full amount will be due on booking.

For full terms & conditions please speak to our events or reservations team.

Terms & Conditions

Terms & conditions apply and payment of deposit constitutes your acceptance of these terms. Please ask for full details.

£10.00 per person non refundable deposit is required within 14 days of booking, failure will result in booking being released. (Christmas Day & New Year's Eve events require a £25 deposit per person).

Free place available for organisers of parties over 20 (this is only applicable to Party Nights & Lunches, Christmas Day Lunch & New Year's Eve are excluded from this offer)

Final balances due on all events 1 month prior to event. Groups of ten or more persons must pre-order & provide their menu choices 1 month prior to event.

Overnight accommodation (excludes New Year's Eve) available from £70.00 per twin/double including breakfast. Singles from £60.00 including breakfast. Non attendance of persons will result in loss of monies paid - no refunds or discretionary allowances will be made.

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(V) Grilled goat 's cheese with roast beetroot and balsamic vinegar
Smoked duck salad with raspberry vinaigrette

The main event

Roast turkey with all the festive trimmings
Chargrilled tuna steak with lemon butter and chive new potatoes
(V) Roast butternut squash filled with pine nut infused quinoa and crumbled feta Braised beef with horseradish mash All served with seasonal vegetables

Dessert

Christmas pudding with brandy butter and vanilla custard
Chocolate and clementine mousse
Farmhouse cheese and biscuits

e:adrian@littlestonegolfclub.org.uk to book your party **or call us to book your table on 01797 363355**

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A guide to the best pantos on in the county this Christmas

For many, Christmas is not complete until they enjoy an outing to the pantomime with their family or friends.

This year there is a huge variety of shows on offer throughout the county, from Cinderella to Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

And with performances beginning in the coming weeks and running until early January, there is plenty of time to visit your local theatre and see them performed on stage.

Pantomime remains as popular as ever, with its anarchic mish-mash of drama, comedy, music and double entendre delighting audiences every year.

A number of familiar faces will be popping up in this year's productions, including EastEnders star Shane Richie, who will be taking on the title role in Dick Whittington, and the star of CBBC show Tracy Beaker, Dani Harmer, who will be taking on the role of Cinderella.

Here is our guide of some of the pantomimes in the area that you can enjoy this year...



■ *The Orchard Theatre, Dartford:*

Dick Whittington features EastEnders actor Shane Richie, who will take on the title role.

The show will be running from December 12 to January 3, 2016.

For more information or to book tickets, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

■ *The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury:*

Family pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, featuring EastEnders actress Rita Simons and CBeebies star Phil Gallagher, will be performed this year.

The show runs from November 27 to January 10, 2016.

For more details, call the box office on 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.



■ *Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells:*

Cinderella will be making its way to the town this Christmas.

The star of CBBC's Tracy Beaker, Dani Harmer, will be taking on the role of Cinderella.

She will be joined on stage by EastEnders star Louise Jameson, who will play the Fairy Godmother, and Jamie Rickers as Buttons.

The show runs from December 11 to January 3, 2016.

To book, visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613.

■ *Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone:*

Mystical pantomime Aladdin will be performed in Folkestone.

It tells the story of poor boy Aladdin, who tries to win the heart of a beautiful princess and defeat the evil Abanazar.

The show runs from December 22 to January 9.

For more details, visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

■ *Woodville Theatre, Gravesend:*

Robin Hood and the Babes in the Woods, starring EastEnders actor Ricky Norwood as the Sheriff of Nottingham, will be on stage in Gravesend.

*The show also stars B*Witched singers Keavy Lynch, who will play the Fairy of the Forest, and Edele Lynch, as the Witch of the Woods.*

It will run from December 11 to January 3, 2016.

To book you can visit www.woodville.co.uk.

■ *Churchill Theatre, Bromley:*

Aladdin, starring British soap award-winning actor Scott Maslin, will be performed in Bromley this year,

Mr Maslin will be playing Abanazar in the show. He will be joined on stage by Jen Pringle, who will take on the role of Princess Jasmine, and Luke Roberts, who will play the title role of Aladdin.

Aladdin will run from November 27 to January 3, 2016.

To book, you can visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

■ *Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks:*

Peter Pan will be on stage at the theatre this year.

The pantomime stars Boyzone singer Shane Lynch, who will be taking on the iconic role of Captain Hook.

He will be joined by EastEnders actor Jamie Foreman and pop star Ben Ofoedo.

The show runs from December 5 to January 10.

To book, call 01732 450175.

■ *Brittania Theatre, Chatham Maritime:*

Dick Whittington is the pantomime of choice for Chatham this year.

The show stars S Club 7 singer Tina Barrett, who will play Fairy Bowbells, Hollyoaks actor Paul Danan and Derek Griffiths.

It will be running from December 12 to January 3.

To book, visit www.thebritanniakent.com.

■ *Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone*

Peter Pan will be performed this year, running from December 4 to January 3.

To book visit www.parkwoodtheatres,co.uk.

■ *Theatre Royal Margate:*

Aladdin will be on stage, starring Coronation Street actor Danny Young.

It will run from December 12 to 29.

To book, visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

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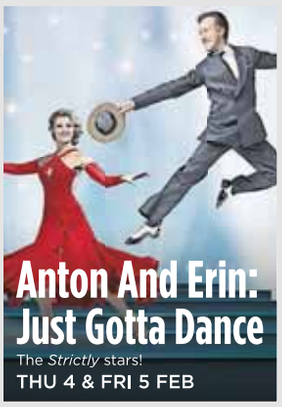


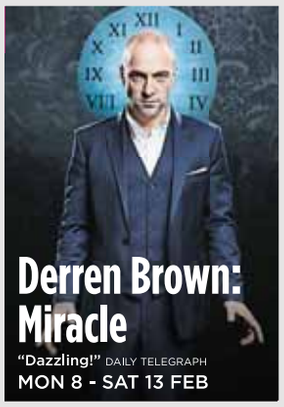
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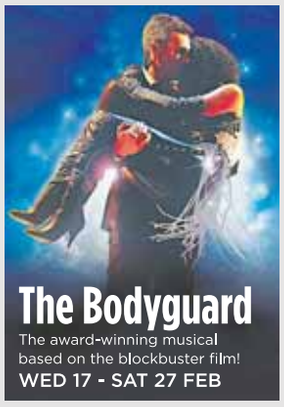
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Book your tickets today by calling the Box Office on **01227 787787** (bkg fee) or book online at **marlowetheatre.com** (bkg fee).



Blue plaque marks time Beatles came on a magical tour

The Fab Four spent several days in West Malling to shoot their psychedelic movie the Magical Mystery Tour. **Chris Murphy** reports on how it has now been remembered

A BLUE plaque has been attached to a building in West Malling to mark where The Beatles filmed some of their legendary movie, The Magical Mystery Tour.

The Fab Four shot a number of scenes in the town - and used the town's former airfield for scenes in the psychedelic film which was released in 1967.

The group were already huge global superstars and made their visit to the county shortly after the band released their seminal album, Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

All four, along with their partners at the time, proved a big hit with the Moor and Mountain ski shop in the town, added: "I am in the film as an extra.

"We did it over a whole weekend. As we understood it, these were the finishing pieces for the film but sadly we didn't get any photos of them, because we were not rich enough in the 1960s to have cameras.

"I remember I was following Paul about when he was with [actress] Jane Asher, and George was with Pattie Boyd, Ringo was with Maureen Cox, and John was with his wife Cynthia and little Julian [their son] was running about in a white suit.

"They had the psychedelic Rolls-Royce there and obviously had the bus.

"Ringo bought stuff from our shop on the corner there. I was a youngster then and was just getting in to fashion gear and Ringo bought flared jeans and a round collared shirt.

"John grabbed a hat from someone in the crowd. It had been bought in our shop and John wore it while filming the scene where he was buying tickets with Ringo for the tour in the film. The hat had cost the customer nine shillings and eleven pence and was recently sold for £3,000. That was old Fred, who was a member of the borough council."

Recently a blue plaque was unveiled by Chatham and Aylesford MP and culture minister Tracey Crouch. It has gone up on the side of a fast food restaurant to mark that moment in 1967.

County councillor Trudy Dean was in charge of getting the blue plaque put up. She told us: "There was a little bit of a dispute over where the plaque should be. We managed to track someone down who was able to confirm we were looking at the right building.

"When The Beatles came to film, they didn't have much of a budget, so they recruited locals as extras doing some walk-on parts and we were told that around 50 of them were used."

Mr Baldock says the local newsagent's shop, now the restaurant, was used as a location where tickets were sold for the mystery tour. The shop owner was called Stan and he insisted the film crew waited until he closed locals - many of whom would be extras in the shooting of the slightly odd 52-minute film.

Tim Baldock, now 68, remembers the time well. He told KoS: "It was a great moment for me. They came up from Cornwall and arrived in West Malling creating a little bit of chaos."

Mr Baldock, who now runs the for business for the day so he didn't lose any money.

He said: "Stan said they asked him if he wanted to be paid for using his shop for filming, and when he said no, Paul thanks him and pushed a fiver in his pocket telling him he should treat himself to a cigar on him.

"It was a fun time to have what was the world's biggest pop band in your own little town. They were all really nice and got on with the locals really well. It was a treat and is now something I will never forget."

Tourism champions for the county Visit Kent said it was fitting the town should become a stop-off for any Beatles fan wishing to follow in their footsteps. A spokeswoman said: "The Magical Mystery Tour film was first shown on BBC1 on December 26, 1967 and was largely filmed at West Malling airfield, at the time a de-commissioned RAF airfield and now Kings Hill.

"Shortly after the beginning of the film, Ringo Starr went into a newsagent and bought tickets for the Magical Mystery Tour for himself and his Aunt Jessie from John Lennon. That newsagent was the Town Newsagency, then at 90 High Street, West Malling."

The film was not an instant hit with some versions being released in black and white and others in colour.

In a 1969 interview, Paul McCartney said: "There were a couple of things that were hashed up about that. One was that we made it in colour and it was put out first of all in black and white.

"There were whole big sequences which you couldn't understand because the colours change. It was mad. That was a bit daft.

"The thing itself was put on telly when everyone was expecting Christmas extravaganzas and we put on this mad film."

Scenes at the former RAF airfield included The Beatles casually dancing down giant stairs in a hanger to be welcomed by more than 150 dancers. Then there was a children's tug of war plus some blindfolded vicars.

AND THEY SHOT FAMOUS SCENES IN SEVENOAKS TOO









THE notion of a pop video was still in its infancy when the band was back in Kent filming scenes for Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields Forever, a double A-side single.

The group chose Knole Park in Sevenoaks for its historic look and rolling countryside.

Paul, John, Ringo and George, are seen cantering around an archway on horseback in the Penny Lane video before riding past a 'stage' set up in Knole's grounds and onto a banqueting table. Representative of the psychedelic times in the 1960s, it is all a little surreal.

Julian Joseph Sylvester was a 14-year-old student at the neighbouring school. He told the BBC that in February 1967 he was a little ill and rather than go to games, he decided to check rumours the band was filming next door.

He said: ''The Beatles were riding around on horses, pouring paint over a piano and jumping from dead trees with Lennon singing 'Hey hey we're the Monkees'.''

He claims to have later laid claim to a champagne bottle seen in the ice bucket in the Penny Lane video.

He said: ''The Beatles then got up from the table which was overturned by Lennon and McCartney, the bottle was thrown to the ground which is where I retrieved it from.''

He said he got John Lennon to sign the label later in the day.

The video features on The-Beatles 1, a new boxset of restored videos.

THE GREEN MAN

HODSOLL STREET





The Green Man is a friendly, family run pub located in the picturesque hamlet of Hodsoll Street on the North Downs in beautiful Kent countryside.

Your hosts are David, Jean and John Haywood and they lead a team of talented people who are there to ensure everyone has a great time. The extensive menu is prepared fresh to order from the finest ingredients and has something to suit all tastes. The cask ales and lagers are well kept and fine wines and spirits are available for those who do not enjoy a good pint.

The Green Man features a large garden to the rear of the building with ample car parking making it an ideal watering hole during your tour of Kent whether it be a simple visit to the country, a shopping trip to Bluewater, a sporting occasion at Brands Hatch or on route to France via Eurostar or the Kent ports.

Sunday Roasts at the Green Man Pub promise you just as much flavour and variety with beef, chicken, lamb shank, pork belly and vegetarian roast options. The roast is available from 12-8.30 pm.

The Green Man also packs a punch with its event nights that see a fun Quiz Night on Monday night, Tuesday's Steak and Rib Night, Fish Night on Wednesdays and Pies and Puddings Night (two courses for £12) on a Thursday.

Live music every Sunday Night from 7.30pm and monthly every 2nd Thursday with even more in December for your Christmas parties. Programme available on our website or facebook.

From flavoursome homemade meals and a selection of drinks, to a full calendar of entertainment, the Green Man Pub and Restaurant is a thriving local gem.

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THE GREEN MAN HODSOLL STREET

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Bake Off's Mat Riley talks about fatherhood and trying new things

The skateboarding TV baker from Tunbridge Wells claims his time in a fire station has prepared him for sleepless nights with his baby while also revealing he only started baking some three years ago...

Sarah Sturt
sarah.sturt@archant.co.uk

IF YOU'RE interviewing Great British Bake Off contestant Mat Riley, the Tunbridge Wells firefighter, surely the only place to meet up is at a fire station? And where better than the iconic Old Fire Station in nearby Tonbridge, currently the hottest place in town and temporarily being used as an exciting pop-up venue for everyone from chefs and artisan brewers to tailors and artists.

Mr Riley, who serves with the London Fire Brigade, was delighted to get a chance to see behind the big red doors. Once he'd explored the space, a hive of activity with trestles and tables being set up for the latest venture to 'pop up' that evening, we headed round the corner to another highly appropriate venue: The Bakehouse at 124.

And what a lovely chap he is, exactly like he came over on the telly; friendly, down to earth and still a tad bemused by the GBBO fan base. On our short walk from fire station to tea room, he's stopped several times for photos, handshakes and even the odd hug, but greets everyone with the same warmth.

Not only that, he became a first-time father to son Ruben just over two weeks before our meeting, and has just moved home. He could be forgiven for being a bit tired and ratty, but he just laughs and says shift work has made him an ideal dad for night-time nappy duty.

"You sleep in a dorm at the fire station and you're so used to people coming in and out, chatting, lights going on. Six months with the fire brigade would sort out any new dad."

He's also so excited about his new house, a bungalow just off Camden Road, that he brushes off the stress of moving house. "In the old place near the Pantiles I could touch all four walls with outstretched hands, it was so tiny, but that's where I did all my practising for Bake Off.

"Now it's so nice to have space, loads of cupboards to put things in rather than having everything piled up and I'm going to be able to experiment with new recipes. It's the main reason we went for the bungalow – it's got a massive kitchen with room for a table for eight."

Mr Riley, 38, only began baking three years ago when the four days on, four days off routine of his working life gave him time to experiment in the kitchen – and his imminent wedding to Alex Beard, the London Live TV presenter - the incentive to practise baking cakes.

He never did make the macaron tower they'd originally planned (friends and family made all the food for their budget wedding in Wadhurst), but his mastery of the notoriously tricky French sweet meringue-based confection gave him the confidence to try more and more recipes.

There was also a willing group of tasters in the shape of his firefighter buddies, who quickly came to expect sweet treats every time he came back from a break and were rarely disappointed.

"Every time I took something I'd made into the fire station the blokes loved it – it didn't always look good, but it usually tasted good. Great British Bake Off was on at the time last year and it became a bit of a rolling joke that I should apply for it. In the fire service you have to bring cakes in for literally everything and I always made mine. So I applied as a bit of joke really."

Then, of course, it all got a bit more serious. "You have to do interviews, bake in a commercial kitchen in front of the camera, while you're talking – loads. But I think I was alright because I told myself the worst thing that's going to happen to you is that you're not going to get on to Bake Off, then when I was on the show it was making a bad cake and having to go home, which is annoying and upsetting but not the end of the world.

"So I went in with that kind of approach and I did alright really, I made it to week seven. After week one I took the pressure off myself and thought, I've got this far, I'm not going to get ribbed too much back at the fire station. Then it got to week three, week four and it was even better – to get to week seven was amazing. There's nothing now that I wouldn't try."

Chatting to Mat, it sounds like he's never been afraid to give new things a try, and while his ambition was always to be a fire fighter, en route he's had a few interesting changes of direction.

"Years ago I thought I was going to be a fashion designer, so the first thing I did was buy a sewing machine and made a few bits. They were pretty awful, it was a moment a bit like my baking when I thought – I could be really good at this and just went for it. The baking went further than the fashion designing."

Before trying to become the next Paul Smith, however, his first job was as a hairdresser in Tunbridge Wells, which he did for three years and loved. Then came the perfect job for this skateboarder of 25 years, working in the skateboard shop in Camden Road.

But the dream was always to get into the fire service, and it's an indication of his determined character that he succeeded. "I am not sure when Kent last recruited, probably years ago – it's not a job that many people leave, except when they retire, so vacancies don't come up very often."

He went through various stages from initial application to testing of personal qualities such as the ability to work in a team and deal with stressful situations, followed by an interview, exams, a physical check and a medical – just to get to the four months of intensive training level.

"I love it, I'm at East Greenwich, the governor and the guys I work with are great, the station is busy enough without being too manic and the jobs you get to do put you in a very privileged position. You're knocking on people's doors and you get welcomed in when they probably wouldn't welcome in the police or social workers.

"Once a situation gets a bit hairy your training kicks in and you're never on your own, you've always got a minimum of two and you're going to work out what you're going to do pretty quickly.

"I started baking because it was something that was relaxing and enjoyable to do, then it turned into something that was about as high pressure as it could get baking wise. I was being filmed, there were 13 million people watching me on TV, seeing every slip up I made.

"You do think about the audience and the mistakes with the first couple of bakes, but a couple of weeks in I started to enjoy it more, get to have a bit of a laugh with the others.

"Those first couple of weeks you don't know anyone or how good they are. When we all got announced, that was a funny day – all of a sudden your face is on the front page of about 10 papers, then you get recognised when you go out. Now it's back to work, the guys treat me just the same and I'm driving a fire engine again."

Read the full interview with Mat Riley in the December issue of our sister title – Kent Life... which is out now, priced £3.35.



LOVELY CHAP: Bake Off's Mat Riley has a lot going on - a new baby son, a new home and he's also back driving a fire engine



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BALLET: Giselle will be performed in January

Magical performances of Giselle and The Nutcracker

Two classic ballet performances will be in Dartford, writes Molly Kersey-Law...

RENOWNED dance company Moscow City Ballet will be bringing two classic performances to Dartford.

Featuring a number of talented dancers, ballets Giselle and The Nutcracker will be on stage at the Orchard Theatre early next year.

Giselle tells the story of a village girl, who is driven to madness and dies of a broken heart when she discovers that her lover Albercht is betrothed to marry another.

A group of supernatural women, who all died before their wedding day, then summon Giselle to dance.

The show features the music of composer Adolphe Adam.

The Nutcracker, which features Tchaikovsky's iconic score, tells the story of young Clara - who undertakes a magical adventure when her Nutcracker Prince comes to life.

Their journey includes a visit to the Land of the Flowers and the Flower Fairy.

Both of the productions will feature live music - which will be performed by the Moscow City Ballet Orchestra - and will star principal ballerinas Alevtina Lapshina and Liliya Oryekhova.

The Moscow City Ballet was founded by Victor Smirnov-Golovanov in 1988.

He died in 2013, and his wife - Ludamila Neroubashchenko - took on the role of artistic director.

Speaking about the performances, she said: "I believe our dancers bring 110 per cent to every performance, incredible agility, grace, beauty and drama.

"The costumes and sets are magical and we tour with a live orchestra which adds to the overall production and creates more excitement for the audience.

"The Nutcracker is a delightful ballet to watch at this time of year, the set and costumes are stunning and the story is easy for younger dance fans to follow.

"We stay faithful to the Russian interpretation and feature the Land of Flowers and the Flower Fairy which is danced by Lilia Oryekhova, a truly magical scene to watch.

"Moscow City Ballet has a distinctive style and exciting choreography which comes from traditional Russian ballet and years of training.

"So audiences will see these elements such as artistry, technique, narrative and live music combine to provide a 'big story' ballet. It's very exciting, it's a journey, a complete experience and audiences in Dartford will love it."

Dancer Lilia Oryekhova, who has been with the Moscow City Ballet since 2008, added: "For me each performance - is a great responsibility, Surely, The Nutcracker is one of the most well-known and also one of my favourite ones, I dreamed from my childhood to perform in it.

"The ballet with the fun costumes, instantly recognisable music and Christmas scenes marks the start of the festive period for me. It's a really fun ballet to perform. The production is so dynamic, that it grabs the attention from the very start and keeps it to the very end."

Giselle will be performed from January 19 to 20.

The Nutcracker will be on stage from January 21 to 23.

To book tickets you can visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

» Email us details of your event to:
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Women Seeking

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LUCY, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420237**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4290 Box 419673**

DANCE partner 65-75 sought by Maureen, Thanet based lady, slim, brown hair, green eyes, seeking dancing, fun and friendship **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420231**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4298 Box 418167**

SINGLE slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, slim 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 4287 Box: 409715**

SLIM female GSOH, 5'3, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4274 Box: 405297**

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right paces, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509**

KIND lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 4291 Box: 413399**

PAT, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, cleanshaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081**

CHLOE, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male with a naughty side, is that you, age unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4057558**

MARION, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657**

MELANIE, tanned, toned, young 41yrs divorcee with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4112160**

CHANTELLE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883**

MARIE, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955**

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741**

ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793**

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435**

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603**

PAT, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127**

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569**

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629**

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675**

RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517**

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497**

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515**

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215**

Men Seeking

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SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163**

DAVID, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4112425**

HUBERT, lives in Rochester, single, lonely, looking for someone to get together with and make something happen and enjoy the rest of life with! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420049**

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

MALE 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201**

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909**

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211**

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171**

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297**

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233**

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195**

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809**

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970**

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985**

MALE 51, 5ft 8ins, N/S, GSOH, easygoing, seeks slim female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338269**

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

CLINT, 37, kind, caring, honest and WLTM someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951**

WHITE Knight 59 5'10 tall, OHAC, in shining armour, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004**

CALM, kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733**

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

MALE 47, builder, seeks lady for companionship and closeness, age and looks unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4924811**

MATTHEW, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469**

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45 year old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649**

JOHN, 47, six foot two, well-built, handsome, non-smoker, intelligent and funny, doesn't take himself too seriously, easy to get along with, seeks attractive female, any age, for discreet, adventurous, any time fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419461**

NICE looking genuine man would like to meet nice lady any age for company, outings with GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4922399**

ANDREW, 63, likes animals, walking, boot fares, shopping, looking for someone similar living in the Maidstone/Kent area, for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203**

RICHARD 59 from East Kent, WLTM genuine female 50 plus for friendship! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4448765**

MALE 56 yrs, GSOH, n/s, would like to meet a lady to have happy times, lots of love to give, to enjoy good times in and out. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4181244**

MIKE from Canterbury 57, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673**

SINGLE young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275**

69YR old male ,professional, 5ft 10ins, fit, medium build, young outlook, reliable, sincere, likes most things, seeks slim, slender, uncomplicated lady. Kent/Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418531**



MALE, 39, tall, hard-working, 6ft 2, looking for long-term lover/older woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418877**

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749**

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889**

SIMON, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, WLTM a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827**



MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929**

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855**

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663**

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Writers Matt Haig and Nathan Filer talk about mental health

REVIEW Molly Kersey-Law

molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk



TALK: Matt Haig and Nathan Filer came to the Folkestone Quarterhouse

TWO writers made their way to Folkestone to discuss mental illnesses and making the most of being alive.

With figures from charity Mind showing one in four people will experience a mental health problem each year, these are prominent and important issues.

Nathan Filer and Matt Haig have written about schizophrenia and depression.

They came to the Folkestone Quarterhouse during the Folkestone Book Festival - which began on November 21.

The talk was chaired by writer and actor Susanne Howard.

It was an interesting discussion, and one that was likely to have struck a chord with those who are suffering from mental health problems, or know someone who is.

Taking place on a rainy and wind-swept evening, the talk had a cosy atmosphere, with the stage being made to look something like a living room and the writers sitting on a sofa during the event.

The audience was regularly invited to ask the writers questions throughout the talk.

Mr Filer won the Costa Book of the Year award in 2013 for The Shock of the Fall, which tells the story of a young boy with schizophrenia trying to come to terms with the loss of his brother.

He spoke about his character's mental illness affecting his view of the world, and how he says during the book: "This is with me all the time and it's telling me things that aren't true."

Mr Haig also delves into this issue in Reasons to Stay Alive - where he shares his own experience of depression.

"The world view that depression gives you is a false one," he said.

"I was convinced I wouldn't live to be 25, I was convinced everything in my life would be on a downhill slope."

Speaking about writing the book, he said he was trying to find the words to get through to someone in the situation he had previously found himself in - standing on a cliff wanting to end his life.

Mr Haig's book shares a message of hope, with the promise that things can get better, which translates into the talk.

For details about the festival, visit www.folkestonebookfest.com.

Simon and Garfunkel tunes



THE Simon and Garfunkel Story will be performed at the Theatre Royal Margate on February 6, 2016, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £17.50.

To book, visit www.theatre-royalmargate.com.

Dickens' work read aloud

A DRAMATIC reading from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol and the Pickwick Papers will be carried out at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, on December 22.

Readings will take place at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and tickets are £8.

Call 01227 787787 to book.

Chicago due in Dartford



MUSICAL Chicago will be performed at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from February 29 to March 5 2016.

It stars EastEnders actor John Partride as lawyer Billy Flynn.

To book, call 01322 220000.

Paul Carrack up on stage

SINGER Paul Carrack will be performing at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on February 6 at 7.30pm.

The singer and songwriter is the former frontman of Ace, Squeeze and Mike and The Mechanics.

To book, call 01892 530613.







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Footloose due in Dartford



MAUREEN Nolan and Gareth Gates will be starring in Footloose The Musical at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from February 8 to 13, 2016.

To book, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Festive Folkestone show

FESTIVE show So This Is Christmas will be performed at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on December 19 at 7.30pm.

The show features 90s pop star Kavana and Hollyoaks actress Gemma Merna.

For more information, visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

Level 42 back on stage



BAND Level 42 will be performing at Margate Winter Gardens on October 12, 2016, at 7.30pm.

Tickets to the show are £28.

You can visit www.livenation.co.uk to book.

Three Degrees perform

MUSICAL trio The Three Degrees will be performing at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on April 9 at 7.30pm.

The American group was formed in 1963 and their hits include When Will I See You Again and Take Good Care Of Yourself.

To book, visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

A chance to relive the 'golden years' of Jackie

By Molly Kersey-Law

molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk



A MUSICAL reliving the 'golden years' of Jackie magazine will be making its way to Bromley.

Jackie The Musical will be performed on stage at the Churchill Theatre as part of its nationwide tour.

The show tells the story of a divorcee in her fifties, who revisits her stash of Jackie magazines to work out how to navigate the opposite sex.

Jackie magazine accompanied millions of girls through their teenage years in the 1970s and 80s - featuring a number of tips on things like how to iron your hair and advice from agony aunts Cathy and Claire.

The musical is written by Mike James, choreographed by former Strictly Come Dancing judge Arlene Phillips and supported by Jackie publishers DC Thomson.

It features a number of hits from the era – including songs from Donny Osmond, David Cassidy and Marc Bolan.

It will star Janet Dibley, who will play Jackie, Nicholas Bailey, who will play Max and Graham Bickley, who will take on the role of John.

Former magazine editor Nina Myskow, who will also be involved in the production, said: "I'm so proud to have been editor of Jackie in its golden years in the 70s.

"It always was a girl's best friend, but I could never have imagined then that its spirit of fun and warmth would live on to become a musical today.

"It's such a brilliant idea, and I'm absolutely thrilled that I'm going to be involved, all over again. How exciting.

"And I can't wait to see it, to hear the music, and to be transported back to a time when we were all young, and not just young at heart."

Jackie The Musical will be performed at the Churchill Theatre from March 22 to 26.

For more information or to book tickets to the show you can visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.



MUSICAL: Nicholas Bailey will play Max in the show



PERFORMANCE: Graham Bickley will take on the role of John

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Forgetting the faff and creating delicious meals

Lorraine Pascale tells Gemma Dunn about the release of her new book, containing fuss-free recipes

SIMPLICITY is key for Lorraine Pascale.

"It's the way I live and the way I eat," explains the chef, discussing her latest book, Eating Well Made Easy. "There's no faff - just chop it up and throw it in."

It's this understated approach to delivering uncomplicated, nutritious food that has seen the model-turned-TV-cook take the culinary world by storm; and when I turn up to play sous chef at her home in south-west London, the proof is in the pudding.

Looking far younger than her 43 years, Ms Pascale's off-screen demeanour is as fuss-free as her recipes. Dressed in jogging bottoms and a casual T-shirt, she looks every inch the (admittedly quite glamorous) homebody - the only visible sign of her celeb status being a pair of studio lights in her kitchen, which are used to self-shoot her YouTube cooking channel.

"I've started doing it regularly; I'm full-time now and I'm focused, " she says. "I only do two one-minute videos a week because I film and edit them myself."

Her latest venture, she tells me – while chopping tomatoes for her take on popular Mexican dish huevos rancheros – is all about providing fast, easy and affordable recipes for the busy mum/girlfriend/student etc. who wants to uphold a nutritious diet.

"I'm so passionate about it. Writing healthy recipes comes really easily to me," explains Ms Pascale, who reveals she pulled the book together in less than three months by using her familiar, classic plates and giving them a healthier twist.



SIMPLICITY: Lorraine Pascale

Split across sections that include lazy brunches, weekday dinners and movie nights, the decadent book is designed to work for all budgets - and the best thing about it? You won't have to trek to mystical heights to retrieve rare ingredients you may never use again.

"I wanted to include recipes that are easy to follow. Most of the ingredients listed you can get from Tesco, Sainsbury's - local shops. That's what I was aiming for."

And one person she is hoping will make use of the book is her 19-year-old daughter Ella, who left for university this September.

"She's just interested in carbs at the moment," says her mum, laughing. "I felt really guilty dropping her off when she's sat there eating a bowl of - overcooked - pasta. I might make some food and take it down to her..."

In the mean time, she's thinking bigger and working on a series of quick and easy student recipes for her YouTube channel; a go-to guide for those living on a budget.

"When I was living in a model flat, it was the same story. The beginning of the month was good, but after that, it would just be pasta - apart from Friday treat night at the fish and chip shop."

Chris Ramsey on stage

COMEDIAN Chris Ramsey will be bringing his stand up show to Folkestone next week.

Mr Ramsey will perform All Growed Up at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on Thursday (December 3).

The show will be starting at 8pm.

For more details, or to book tickets, visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk or call the box office on 01303 760750.

Folk band in Chatham

THE Bully Wee Band will be performing in Chatham next year.

The folk rock band - which formed in the 1970s and have played in venues around Europe and America - will be taking to the stage at the Central Theatre, Chatham, on January 14 at 8pm.

Tickets to the show are £12.90.

For further information or to book you can visit www.medway.gov.uk/tickets.

Famous faces in panto

PANTOMIME Peter Pan will be performed at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks.

The show will star Boyzone singer Shane Lynch and EastEnders' actor Jamie Foreman.

It will be running at the theatre from December 5 to January 10 2016.

Tickets are £23 or £19 with concessions.

To book you can visit www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk.

A mysterious inspector

J B Priestley's classic play An Inspector Calls will be performed in Canterbury.

The play tells the story of Inspector Goole, who pays a visit to the wealthy Birling family and investigates the death of a young woman.

It will be performed at the Marlowe Theatre from January 19 to 23, 2016, with performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

For details, visit www.marlowetheatre.com or call 01227 787787.



Ruaha park is a roaring success

TRAVEL REVIEW: Tanzania

by Sarah Marshall







CONSERVATION: The Ruaha Carnivore Project is aiming to collect data on predators

SOUND travels through the air at a rate of 332 metres per second, but in the hot, dusty Tanzanian bush, it seems to move much faster. The gruff barks of baboons combine force with the snorts of impala to create a sonic signpost leading us to a clearing. There sits a leopard, its jaws clinging to the neck of an impala, caught only seconds before.

The leopard's glassy eyes dart from right to left as he attempts to safeguard his prey. Two yapping black-backed jackals drive him away, and a pride of lions drawn to the commotion moves in to steal the feast.

It is true lions have a good foothold in Ruaha, the largest National Park in Tanzania and indeed East Africa; 10 per cent of Africa's population are believed to roam here. The sprawling wilderness, encompassing rivers, mountains, acacia forest and swampland, is also home to a myriad of predators and one of the biggest elephant gatherings in the continent.

Yet most of the park remains untouched. There are only seven tourist lodges occupying a game-rich five per cent of the 20,000km sq area.

Realising Ruaha's potential, the Asilia Africa safari group took over operation of the six-tent Kwihala safari bush camp earlier this year, and they now have plans to open an additional luxury lodge.

On my way to Kwihala, I pass a metal sign hanging above the park entrance, which seems to say it all: Discover the Undiscovered.

I'm visiting in October, when most of the dense foliage has disappeared, leaving a brittle skeleton of branches and twigs, through which game can be spied. Cartoonish baobab trees punctuate the landscape, some bulbous and swollen, others gnawed like apple cores by hungry elephants.

We stop at the seasonal Mdonya River, now a dusty sand bed. Only clusters of towering date palms indicate water still flows below the ground, although a herd astute elephants, busy excavating the dust, has clearly cottoned on.

The possibilities for game viewing in Ruaha are undoubtedly rich, yet there's woefully little data about the number of animals present. It's one of the reasons why Professor Amy Dickman started her Ruaha Carnivore Project (RCP) in 2009. The wildlife conservationist - whose work was applauded last year with a nomination for a prestigious Tusk Award for Conservation at a ceremony attended by Prince William - works with lodges in the park to collect data on predators.

Guides are given cameras to record sightings and, as an incentive to work harder, after a year or 125 sightings, they're allowed to keep the kit.

Much of their work is focused on lions, a species seriously under threat.

"There are now fewer wild lions in Africa than rhinos," says Ms Dickman, quoting a current estimate of 20,000. "That fact is shocking to most people who just don't realise how sharply lion numbers have dropped in the past 20 years."

One of the biggest problems is community conflict, something I learn about when I visit the RCP camp. There are 22 villages close to the park with more than 40,000 residents, a mixture of Masai and Barabaig tribes, who are mainly pastoralists. Many have lost precious livestock to predators, and responded with retaliatory killings, often poisoning carcasses in the hope of preventing future attacks and as an act of angry retribution.

"It took a long time for us to gain the communities' trust," says Sonja Lipenga, Ms Dickman's second in command. Eventually a breakthrough came with mobile phones.

"We allowed people to charge their phones here for free and, while they were waiting, took the opportunity to discuss problems with livestock and predators."

RCP now assists villages with the construction of stronger enclosures for livestock, which have been almost 100 per cent successful, and offers tangible benefits of education and veterinary medicine, in exchange for co-operation. Engaging the support of communities is vital to the conservation of predators in Ruaha, and Dickman and her team are doing a fine job of strengthening links between people, wildlife and tourism.

TRAVEL FACTS

SARAH Marshall was a guest of Audley Travel, who offers a nine-night trip to Tanzania, including one night in Dar es Salaam, and two nights at each of Kwihala, Namiri Plains and Kimondo from £5,490. The price includes all flights, private transfers, emergency medical evacuation insurance and all activities, meals and drinks while on safari. Call 01993 838 500 for details.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



CAROL
(15, 119 mins) Romance/Drama

LOVE tears good people apart in Todd Haynes' masterful period drama based on the novel The Price Of Salt by Patricia Highsmith.

Elegantly adapted by Phyllis Nagy, Carol charts an unlikely romance between a shop girl and a glamorous housewife against the backdrop of early 1950s New York.

Rooney Mara plays shrinking violet Therese Belivet, who works in the toy section of Frankenberg's department store. She has an adoring boyfriend, Richard, but her humdrum life lacks excitement until Carol Aird - played by Cate Blanchett - sashays into the store looking for a Christmas present.

The bond between them deepens, kindling a passionate affair, which forces Carol's estranged husband Harge to seek sole custody of their daughter Rindy. Best friend Abby is dragged into the acrimonious legal battle and Carol pleads with Harge to let go of her and his bitterness.

BLACK MASS
(15, 123 mins) Thriller/Drama

CRIME might pay for Johnny Depp who bids for a fourth Oscar nomination with a tour-de-force portrayal of real-life mobster James 'Whitey' Bulger in Scott Cooper's stylish crime thriller.

Mark Mallouk and Jez Butterworth's script relishes scenes of Whitey terrorizing his victims while shortchanging arguably the most interesting relationship in the film: Whitey and his brother Billy.

John Connolly grew up with the Bulgers in South Boston and returns to the area in 1975 as an FBI agent under Charles McGuire.

The city is under the control of the Winter Hill Gang led by Whitey, right-hand thug Stephen Flemmi, hitman Johnny Martorano and heavy Kevin Weeks. Perversely, Whitey's brother Billy wields legitimate power as a Massachusetts state senator.

When gangland rivals, the Angiulo Brothers, who are connected to the New England Mafia, declare war on the Winter Hill Gang, Connolly secretly contacts Whitey to persuade the kingpin to turn informant.



DOCTOR ZHIVAGO
(PG, 188 mins) Romance

A rerelease of David Lean's 1965 historical romance, based on the Boris Pasternak novel. Orphan Yuri Andreyevich Zhivago is raised by his mother's friends - growing up with their daughter Tonya, who he eventually marries. He becomes a doctor and during the First World War tends to the injured on the battlefields. He meets a nurse called Lara, whose husband Pasha is missing in action. Yuri falls madly in love with Lara, but they remain faithful to their spouses against the backdrop of the conflict.

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



FESTIVE: There are certain things to bear in mind when choosing your tree

Pick a perfect Christmas tree

IF you're trawling garden centres and nurseries looking for a real Christmas tree, there are certain things you have to bear in mind.

Size matters - it's no use trying to fit a wide, dense tree into a narrow space or hoping that a thinner tree will fill a huge space.

If you're on a budget, you may bag a bargain tree - Aldi will be selling Nordman firs up to 3ft 6in for £11.99 from December 6 and taller Nordmans - up to 5ft 9in - for £19.99, against steeper prices from higher end retailers.

If you're worried about the carbon footprint and imported trees, you may be better off going to members of the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association for a tree grown in the UK. Visit them at www.bctga.co.uk.

Wyevale Garden Centres also sources the vast majority of its trees from the British Isles. Find out more at www.wyevalegardencentres.co.uk

"The Nordman Fir is our most popular tree and is much more needle-fast with attractive dark colouration," said David Mitchell, plant buyer with the group.

"Those looking for something more exclusive and unusual may go for the Fraser and Noble firs which have an almost conical shape, tasteful blue or olive green colours and both with very dense, highly scented foliage."

There's been a trend towards 'Swedish-style' trees that have a much more open structure where you can visibly see the layers and lay decorations right into the centre.

"This does come in at a lower price point but is by no means a lower-quality tree - it follows the trend for a more modern Christmas tree that suits minimalistic and contemporary spaces and modern decoration themes," said Mr Mitchell.

The traditional Norway spruce is less popular but is cheaper, smells good and represents the classic idea of a Christmas tree from childhood. The blue spruce is all about the colour and is ideal as a pot-grown tree, to be kept after the festivities.

Mr Mitchell offered top tips including choosing a tree that isn't pre-wrapped in netting, so you can really see the shape and the branches won't permanently be stuck upright.

Plus, if trees are left in the net, air is not able to circulate, the tree warms up and a micro-climate forms. This leads to the tree beginning to decompose and needles will drop at a much quicker rate.

The colour of the needles should be dark green, not pale and washed out, and needles should feel waxy to the touch and not dry. Try stroking the tree and seeing if needles come off.

Some people prefer a full dense tree, others opt for a more open shape but in general, the tree should be evenly proportioned, not too dense at the bottom or sparse at the top or have gaping holes. Make sure you look around the whole tree for these.

As well as this, don't wait until the last minute to purchase your tree.



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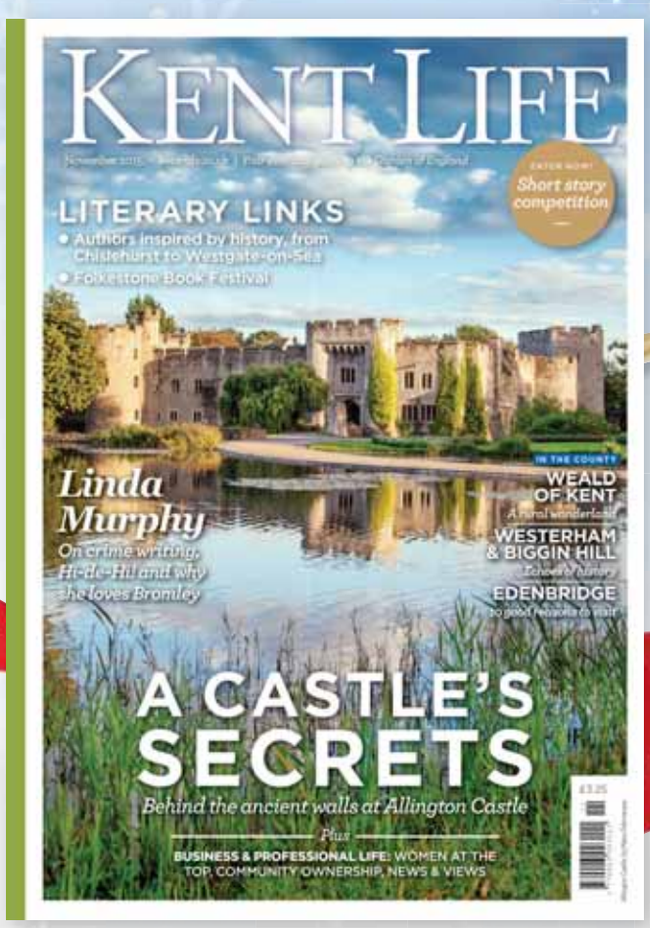
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Manston is not supported by all

VERY well said Pauline Hayfield and P Lloyd (Letters, last week); you have hit both nails on the head in one strike.

Those who are against Manston Airport have not done their homework.

For the record, I admit being biased, having worked there just a few weeks short of 30 years.

Those who are anti Manston Airport seem to have forgotten that the desire of the majority of residents here are in favour of it being re-opened. Polls proved that.

We lived at one time in Duncan Road, Ramsgate, and the aircraft flew directly over our house and (according to wind direction), on landing approach and on take off climb out. The 'terrible noise', as some put it, lasted a few seconds.

For a good number of years now, the noisy Russian cargo aircraft have not been allowed in UK airspace.

The rubbish written by J Baxter is beyond belief. Manston is in exactly the right place for just about every reason.

There has never been any hint of night flights. There have been times when an inbound aircraft has been delayed en route for some reason, and cannot land during the agreed times.

These are the only times when 'out of hours" landing times have been permitted in the past and would only be permitted in the future'. An aircraft cannot stop mid air and wait for a convenient time to land.

John Sherwell,
via email

Grammar tale doesn't add up

COLIN Bullen (KoS, 22.11) is critical of Mr Webb's assertion that grammar schools are detrimental to social mobility. Mr Webb is correct.

Research has continually shown that separating children by ability has a negative impact on social mobility.

Mr Bullen's experience of an almost entirely working class grammar school could be correct – I say could, as the historical evidence is that if this was the case, it is highly unlikely. If he was one of the very few who attended a grammar school with a high proportion of working class pupils he avoids two very important and I imagine for him, uncomfortable truths.

The first relates to the date he went to school – 1958. At this time almost three quarters of the population were regarded as 'manual and unskilled workers'.

One feature of this high proportion is that it skews the perception of large numbers of working class children doing well due to grammar schools. Only a tiny percentage (less than 0.5 per cent) obtained two or more A Levels at grammar schools and even though about one-in-four university students at this time were 'working class' what this exposes was (and still is) an appalling under representation of three quarters of the nation's population.

The second uncomfortable truth relates to Mr Bullen's comments that 'none of us were unfairly selected' and that selection at 11 is a 'level playing field'. Selection at 11 will always be unfair as testing favours the middle and upper classes, it is also an absurd and illogical assumption to suggest that intellectual ability, even for the successful working-class children, is fixed from the age of 11.

Oddly, Mr Bullen ends by attacking the aspiration that more working-class students (I assume this as he attacks 'poor secondary schools') are being given the opportunity to study at university. Make your mind up Mr Bullen and provide the readers with a coherent argument that is based on evidence and not a perverse value system that sees the equality of opportunity for all as undesirable.

Alan Bainbridge,
Whitstable

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Now is not the time for us to bomb Syria

IT does seem from last week's Kent on Sunday (Is now the time for RAF to join battle in Syria?) that following the bomb on a Russian jet in Sinai and the massacres in Paris and Mali everyone wants to begin bombing Syria.

All the Conservative MPs for Kent certainly do.

They are running about and boasting how tough we are going to be and how we can stop these merciless killers, who call themselves Islamic, by dropping bombs in the desert, or what is worse, dropping bombs on towns already decimated by French, Russian and US planes and drones.

In a situation like this it is always worth remembering Rudyard Kipling's advice:, "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you, you'll be a man, my son."

Because there is a whiff of panic in all this.

It seems otherwise quite sophisticated people are losing their heads, unable to think through what we might be able to do yet convinced we must do something.

Remember Vietnam where tons of bombs were dropped on the jungle, or the thousands of bomber raids in the Second World War? It seems to me we are fighting the last war and the one before that.

The irony is that the prime minister David Cameron wanted to bomb Syria some while ago and was refused a majority in parliament, but now he has come back because he reckons he can get a majority so as to bomb - the other side!

What's going on?

Do we just want to drop bombs on someone far away so as to take our minds off tax credit cuts?

Derek Munton
Rochester

We must protect our services

OUR Garden of England is coming under more and more pressure. Our local budgets financing 'essential services' are centred on our town and county halls – these budgets are susceptible to George Osborne balancing national books.

But with the ring-fenced departments, local government budgets appear certain to be reduced again with horrifying results to our local services.

Our whole maintenance infrastructure budget may well collapse and we should be prepared for many more of our unfortunate residents resorting to sleeping on the streets and begging.

What upsets many is that .07 per cent of GDP is being spent on international aid – 50 per cent of which never gets to the needy but is swallowed in outrageous administration. Surely "charity begins at home" and our vital services should be well funded especially during this crisis and festive period.

Edward La Coste,
Lamberhurst

Ban parking on others' drives

I DO not drive myself, partly from choice for, sooner or later, some of us must make a gesture in expiation of our guilt for climate change. But there are times when I feel I've bought an expensive house to provide free parking for strangers.

There are neighbours with three and four-car families who never dream of opening their garage doors. And there are others with excessively large cars with no garage at all.

To the familiar complaint of "I've go nowhere else to put it", my reply is: "That is you problem - it should not be mine."

Sooner rather than later the government must bit the bullet and tackle those who park indiscriminately - it should never be legal to park outside someone else's home.

John Groves,
Walmer

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent



Hares on Elmley Marshes, Sheppey

by **John Hunt, Hawkhurst**

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Christmas is ... waiting for sleigh bells

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



FOURTH GENERATION: The new Lexus RX offers re-tuned suspension and better, more desirable looks

Rock star style but less rock 'n' roll

FIRST DRIVE: Always a technical tour de force, the all-new Lexus RX aims to be both style icon and driver pleaser this time...

THERE'S more than intent in the aggressive looks of the fourth generation Lexus RX.

There's action too in the form of a retuned suspension as standard, plus Adaptive Variable Suspension on F Sport and Premier variants, to further increase comfort and driver rewards.

New construction techniques mean the body is also more rigid this time; Toyota's premium arm says it wants to put an end to rock 'n' and roll on the road, though not from the sound system.

Where adaptive suspension is fitted, the car automatically adjusts the shock absorbers in response to road quality and driver inputs, meaning more comfort on winter-battered roads and a flatter cornering stance.

The stiffened body assists here too, while boosting cabin refinement and crash protection.

In addition, the RX now looks far more desirable after a succession of so-so designs, having gained the deeper corporate grille now prevalent across the Lexus range, while also looking like the big brother to the racy yet chunky NX model – as it should.

Power comes from a petrol-electric hybrid system that has always been a strength of the RX, on the basis that bigger cars are better able to accommodate and make the most of a dual powertrain plus attendant fuel tank and battery pack.



Prices are to be confirmed, but expect them to echo the high specifications, value and cabin comfort of the previous RX line-up, which started at around £40,000.

This new RX should be a breakthrough model: the looks of the smaller NX have already made industry watchers re-appraise a brand able to scare dominant German rivals through its hybrid technology – especially so now, as diesel takes a PR battering – but has so far lacked the driver pleasing dynamics and snob value of the likes of BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi.

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in...
KENT LIFE

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A Subaru - but not as we know it

Japan's all-wheel drive star strayed from the rugged path to produce a sporting gem – the BRZ – a secret all too well-kept, writes **Steve Loader...**

Subaru
BRZ 2.0 SE Lux

Price:	from £23,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	Toyota GT86



SUBARU once seemed like a brand having its cake and eating it.

On one hand, it thrived by selling smart yet rugged all-wheel drive estates like the Legacy, Outback, and original Forester.

On the other, was the snorting all-wheel drive rally heritage Impreza series.

Both sets of customers co-existed happily until the former became aware of the other's chavvy penchant for Burberry baseball caps and gold alloys.

With that – and rocky years with the Yen riding high against Sterling – Subaru lost ground.

A shame when one of the brand's current gems is the BRZ, a classic rear-driven sports coupe with oodles of entertainment yet, seemingly, one of the motor market's best kept secrets.

OK, it's not typical of Japan's all-wheel drive guru brand, but when world No1 carmaker, Toyota, hold a 16.5 per cent share in your parent company Fuji Heavy Industries and wants help making a sports car, you tend to nod and shout 'Hai!' in accepted Japanese fashion.

You can see Toyota's gain, having lost its way after affordable halo cars like the Celica, Supra and MR2, but it doesn't fit with what Subaru has produced before.

Toyota contributed design leadership and new direct petrol injection technology, allowing an impressive non-turbocharged 197bhp output from two litres.

Subaru supplied the platform and trademark boxer (horizontally-opposed) engine, allowing an ultra-low profile and superb balance, encouraging keen drivers to gently drift the back end when cornering with traction control off.

The resulting car – launched in 2012 as the Toyota GT86 and Subaru BRZ – offers the affordable sporting fun previously owned by Mazda's MX-5 roadster.

Concentrating on the BRZ, there is one engine and effectively two models: the SE and slightly better specc'd SE Lux tested here, unless you crave one with a six-speed auto (£1,500 extra) rather than the slick-flicking six-speed manual 'box.

Going auto seems bonkers though, when you have one of the finest sports cars for the money, and the auto wastes nearly a second on the 7.6-second 0-62mph sprint.

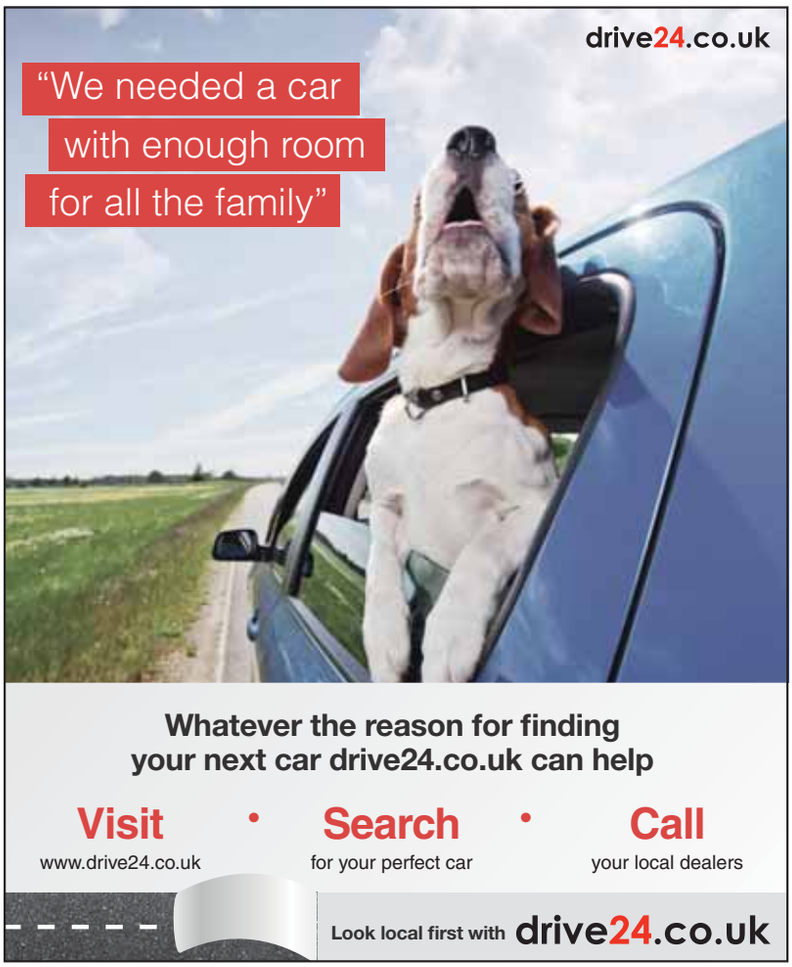
Go manual and you have one of the finest sports cars for the money and a cabin with retro charm and alloy finish pedals.

Cabin stowage is minimalist, but there's a good boot even if the aperture is narrow.

Front seats are well-shaped with two heavily-bucketed ones in the back; you could carry four adults at a pinch, but the BRZ is more 2+2.

There have been whinges that the engine is neither turbocharged nor sounds beefy, but it revs sweetly and distinctively once into its stride above 4,000 revs.

Manoeuvrability is the key to the car's appeal though, helped by narrow wheels and tyres; scaling them up would surely lower the fun factor.





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Model shown Jeep Renegade 1.4 MultiAir II 140hp Longitude 4x2 Manual at £20,395 OTR. OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR JEEP RENEGADE RANGE MPG (L/100KM): EXTRA URBAN 47.9 (5.9) – 70.6 (4.0), URBAN 32.5 (8.7) – 55.4 (5.1), COMBINED 40.9 (6.9) – 64.2 (4.4), CO_2 EMISSIONS: 160 – 115 G/KM. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Promotion available on new Renegade models registered between 23rd November and 19th December 2015. †Saving applied to reduce monthly payments to £169. *Customer deposit is £3,986. Jeep deposit is £1,500. Total deposit £5,486. Optional final payment £10,272. Contract term is 24 months. Jeep Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Jeep Horizon PCP or Jeep Hire Purchase. With Jeep Horizon you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only and on selected stock vehicles. Jeep Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. Jeep® is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.

13947

4x4 Buyer's GUIDE:

By Steve Loader

El Nino's wrath may drive 4x4 sales

FORECASTERS warn that the notorious climate phenomenon El Nino – 'the kid' that likes to mess up British winters – should play a part in bitter weather coming soon.

So it's no wonder that the traditional four-wheel drive vehicle buying season looms larger than usual.

The market sector also has a spring in its step these days: 'funky chunky' off-road, sports utility vehicle (SUV), and crossover looks are all the rage after a bad spell several years ago when they were portrayed as wasteful gas guzzlers.

As the 2007 recession hit – a financial El Nino – they went from being the fashionable darlings of city dwellers who liked to suggest that they were country people, to becoming the villains of the piece.

But even 4x4s got greener as the buying public grappled with its eco-conscience as well as that other eco – economy – forced upon us all by recession.

And now the market is booming, with model launches dominated by the type and more to come in 2016.

Behind the trendy image, the keys to this success have been weight-saving design and materials, plus the latest engine technology, all combining to drive down running costs - many so-called 4x4s or SUVs are not even four-wheel drive any more.

So read our special section to find out more about 4x4s and SUVs and, which ones may suit your needs.





FUNKY CHUNKY STARS: the Land Rover Discovery Sport and Renault's all-new Kadjar crossover

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Sorento 'KX-1' 2.2 CRDi personal contract purchase representative example

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Customer deposit	£7,230.30
Offer price	£28,795.00
Optional final payment	£13,109.12
Amount of credit	£20,314.70
Interest charges	£2,478.42
Total amount payable	£31,273.42

Miles per annum	11,000
Excess mileage charge	14.9p
Duration of agreement	37 months
Fixed rate of interest	2.52%
APR Representative	**4.9%**

Sportage 'Axis Edition' 1.6 GDi personal contract purchase finance example

36 monthly payments	£225.00
Kia deposit contribution	£1,200.00
Customer deposit	£5,535.00
On the road price	£20,995.00
Optional final payment	£7,798.75
Amount of credit	£14,260.00
Interest charges	£1,638.75
Total amount payable	£22,633.75

Miles per annum	11,000
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Fixed rate of interest	2.52%
APR	**4.9%**

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the all-new Kia Soul are: Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 44.8 (6.3) – 64.2 (4.4), Combined 38.7 (7.3) – 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions are 170 – 132 g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 1st October and 30th November 2015. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made. T&C's apply. Subject to status. 18's or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Kia Motors Finance, RH1 1SR. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle.

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REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130

48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	CASH PRICE	DEALER DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	FINANCE FACILITY FEE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	OPTION TO PURCHASE FEE	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	DURATION	FIXED INTEREST RATE P.A.	5.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 37.2 (7.6)-65.7 (4.3); extra-urban 57.7 (4.9)-80.7 (3.5); combined 48.7 (5.8)-74.3 (3.8). The official CO_2 emissions are 135-99g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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Do I really need a 'Full Monty' 4x4...?

GOING 4x4 is a no-brainer if you work on a farm, work on or visit construction sites, or live in a rural area where mud, ice and snow can bog you down.

Some would-be buyers also need a 4x4 for towing; these can pull greater weights and all-wheel drive is a major reassurance when doing so.

On the other hand, they are not a cheap option if you rarely need the full 4x4 potential, which is why smaller and less expensive SUVs (sports utility vehicles) have evolved.

These deliver all the image and often just as much space as a top grade 4x4, but are less costly to run, being lighter and usually equipped with an automatic all-wheel drive system that mostly runs in front-wheel drive, either by manual selection or by an automatic function – the latter diverts more power and grip to the rear wheels if onboard sensors decide that help is needed.

Then you must decide on the powertrain; diesel is the preferred choice as it gives good low down power when a 4x4 needs it – in other words, when the going gets tough.

It's also better for fuel and emissions, but diesels can cost more upfront than petrol models, so you need to cover more miles to recoup the extra outlay via fuel savings.

Another question is: how many seats? Some models offer five or seven and best advice is to go for the latter if you can afford it, as there will always be a time when you need those extra seats.

Seven-seaters also tend to depreciate less as there is more secondhand demand.

In addition, cars designed to hold up to seven, are almost certain to have more load space too, but this means they may be bulkier than you need; for many people the attraction of modern SUVs is getting the 4x4 look without having to worry about parking at the supermarket.



4X4 DASH FOR LESS CASH: Kia's luxurious and versatile Sorento and the off-roading bargain that is the Dacia Duster

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the New Discovery Sport range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 44.1 (6.4) – 50.4 (5.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7) – 62.8 (4.5), Combined 53.3 (5.3) – 57.7 (4.9). CO_2 emissions 139 – 129 g/km.
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Mobility

Mobilise with Motability

By Steve Loader

DISABLED people and their families have had their lives revolutionised by the Government-backed Motability scheme.

This enables them to get on the road for much less than it would cost to buy or lease a new or nearly new car privately, and helps them with potentially costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

The scheme's regular payments also take care of everyday running costs, from insurance, maintenance and repairs, to breakdown assistance – a huge reassurance when motoring costs are soaring.

What is more, Motability does not insist that the disabled person is the driver; the car is made available for that person's benefit, meaning that up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

Since launch in 1978, Motability has sourced more than three million cars, scooters and powered wheelchairs, allowing disabled people to shop, do voluntary work, visit friends, go to the doctor, play sport, give a family member a lift, or go on holiday – things the motoring majority takes for granted.

Some users have also taken up further education or pursued better jobs and careers, after liberation through new mobility.

The scheme was modified recently though, to speed procedures and prevent creeping misuse. Key changes were:

- Streamlining the list of cars available
- Nominated drivers must live at or within five miles of the applicant's address, though special circumstances will be considered
- Drivers under 25 are restricted to cars with an insurance group of 16 or lower and with a power output of 115bhp or less
- Drivers under 21 are only permitted to drive Motability vehicles in cases where they live with the disabled customer.

*For more about this liberating scheme for disabled people, see over.



A WIDE CHOICE: Motability car buyers can shop around as much as any able-bodied person, from looking at the practicality of a smart crossover like the FIAT 500X, to the practical comforts of the Renault five and seven-seat Scenic people carrier range



Fiat with EXPO MILANO 2015

MEET THE EXTENDED FAMILY

FIAT 500L MPW
• 7 seats‡
• Auto Climate Control
• 632 litre boot^

FIAT 500L
Available with:
• Cruise Control
• 5" Touchscreen Radio
• Cargo Magic Space

FIAT 500L TREKKING
• Traction +
• City Brake Control
• Mud & Snow tyres



THE FIAT 500L RANGE FROM NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT*

Motability

For further information or for a complete list of Fiat cars offered on the Motability Scheme, please call Northgate Canterbury on 01227 828200.

NORTHGATE CANTERBURY, 1 WESTMINSTER ROAD, CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 1YY.
TEL: 01227 828200 WWW.NORTHGATE-GROUP.CO.UK

Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 30.4 (9.3) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7) – 78.5 (3.6); Combined 40.4 (7.0) – 72.4 (3.9). CO_2 emissions 163 – 104 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. ˇVehicles shown are Fiat 500L Pop Star 1.3 MultiJet 85hp with NIL Advance Payment, plus Fiat 500L Trekking 1.4 with NIL Advance Payment and Fiat 500L MPW Lounge 1.3 MultiJet 85hp with Advance Payment of £695, both featured with optional Bicolour paint at additional cost. ^The Fiat 500L MPW boot space is based on 5 seat version with rear seats pulled forward. ‡Based on 5+2 seat version. 5 standard seats and two extra seats for persons up to 1.65m. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed by 31st December 2015. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to stock availability.

13938

Top tips on making your Motability choice





SPACE OR STYLE: if you need the room then few boast more space efficiency that the seven-seat FIAT 500L MPW, while the Renault Captur crossover offers style and a high driving position

SMALL CARS
Tend to have the lowest advance payments, running costs and CO2. 2-3-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles, which makes access easier, but closing the doors and fitting in narrow parking spaces may be harder. 4-5-door cars benefit from superior back seat access - useful if you often have more than one passenger.

MEDIUM CARS
Often sold as hatchbacks and will have a slightly bigger boot than a small car, but the same doors arguments apply.

FAMILY CARS
Family cars are large 4-door saloons or 5-door hatchbacks and are considerably larger than medium sized cars. Hatchbacks usually have the best boot capacity.

CROSSOVERS
As the name implies, these versatile models merge several sectors: family hatchbacks and (see later) MPVs and SUVs.

ESTATE CARS
Usually longer than a standard saloon or hatchback, with useful space for mobility aids in the boot, but this can add to the car's bulk so make sure you check it out with a test drive before committing.

MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLES (MPV)
Ranging from small to large, MPVs can seat up to nine people. The seats are higher, with more headroom, legroom and width. Some have large sliding side doors, which obviously improve access for those with disabilities.

4X4 AND SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES (SUV)
The term '4x4' is usually used to describe vehicles designed for off-road use, which generally have higher ground clearance. Until recently, all 4x4s had 4-wheel drive, but many people now buy for the SUV styling and opt for a front-wheel drive version to save fuel.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES (WAVS)
WAVs are cars converted to carry passengers travelling in their wheelchair or those who wish to drive from a wheelchair. WAVs may be best if you have trouble getting in and out of the car from your wheelchair and would prefer to remain in it when travelling as a passenger. WAVs come in different sizes and have many standard features. The Motability website has a specific WAV Search.



The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Renault KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130 are: urban 41.5 (6.8); extra-urban 57.7 (4.9); combined 50.4 (5.6). The official CO_2 emissions are 126g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. UK resident (excludes Channel Islands). Over 18s. Terms and conditions apply. We may introduce you to other finance providers. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on featured new vehicle when ordered by 31 December 2015 and registered by 31 March 2016. KADJAR shown has optional Flame Red Renault i.d. metallic paint, available at an additional £625.

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130

48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	CASH PRICE	DEALER DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	FINANCE FACILITY FEE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	OPTION TO PURCHASE FEE	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	DURATION	FIXED INTEREST RATE P.A.	5.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE
£269	£269	£19,695	£510	£18,916	£99	£9,085	£149	£23,024	48 months	5.46%	

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Westminster Road
Canterbury CT1 1YY
Tel 0844 822 7100

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Hilton Road
Ashford TN23 1EW
Tel 0844 822 7094

www.motorline.co.uk/renault

Book a test-drive

holidays

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01895 83 33 33
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Shoreview Hotel Eastbourne

Departures
January to March, 2016
Quote: SV-KOS

Eastbourne's Shore View Hotel is right on the seafront with views of the resort's award-winning beach. The hotel is set within an elegant Victorian building which has been sympathetically refurbished to a high standard to provide stylish, comfortable accommodation. All bedrooms are en-suite and have a hairdryer, tea/coffee tray, flat-screen TV and wifi internet access.

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a twin/double en-suite room • Breakfasts and dinners





Worthing Winter Warmer Party

Chatsworth Hotel 29 Jan & 5 Feb, 2016 • Quote: WG1/2-KOS

Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 2 nights sharing an en-suite room with TV & free wifi







Hotel Piccadilly Bournemouth

Fridays:
19 February & 4 March, 2016
Quote: BO2/3-KOS

The Hotel Piccadilly has a proud reputation as one of the highest rated AA 3-Star hotels in Bournemouth. It is well located in the resort's East Cliff area, a short stroll from the beaches and gardens that separate the pedestrian shopping centre and designer boutiques, from the sea. All bedrooms are en-suite with TV and tea/coffee making facilities. There will be entertainment provided one night during your stay.

INCLUDED: 3 nights sharing a twin/double en-suite room • 3 breakfasts • 3 dinners • Entertainment 1 night





Mamma Mia & Super 70s Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast 8 July, 2016 • Quote: SS7-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Super Summer Party - for over 40s only - to make the most of our favourite season. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring 70s themed music and nostalgia, including a screening of Mamma Mia the movie, an Abba tribute band and a live performance by 70s rock-n-rollers Showaddywaddy. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you won't want to miss.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available

Private Events - You cannot book these self-drive breaks direct with the hotels/resorts

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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Outpatients/Pre-Assessment) – Margate

Part time Hours: 22.5 per week Closing date: 11/12/2015
Salary: £25677.00 per annum pro rata

Qualifications and Experience
- **Registered Nurse 1st level or Dual Trained Registered Nurse**
- **Evidence of continual professional development**
- **Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures**

Interviews for this role will be held between 4 – 8 January 2016

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager on 07925 978812

For a job description and application form please visit
www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Ward Clerk - Margate

Part time Hours: 20 hours per week (Saturday & Sunday plus one other shift)
Salary: £16,171.66 pro rata Closing date: 04/12/2015

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and motivated Weekend Ward Clerk to join the team at Spencer Private Hospitals. The role itself will include every Saturday and Sunday as well as one five hour shift during the week.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated individual who is able to support the team to deliver a professional and responsive service to patients, visitors and professionals alike.

The successful candidate will be based on our friendly, caring and fast paced ward. As Weekend Ward Clerk you will need to have a flexible approach, outstanding communication and administration skills and be able to work well under pressure.

Qualifications and Experience
- **Maths and English GCSE A –C Grade or equivalent**
- **2 years working in an administrative environment**
- **Good working knowledge of Word/Excel/Outlook.**
- **Exceptional customer service skills.**

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Julie Pain, Administration Supervisor on 01843 234558

Previous applicants need not apply

For a job description and application form please contact:
Justine Whittle, HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 222684 E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.
These positions are subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.

Spencer

Thamesview SCHOOL
with Business and Enterprise status
Thong Lane
Gravesend
Kent DA12 4LF
t: 01474 560 552
f: 01474 537 405
Headteacher:
Mr Harry Ingham MA

MATHS TUTORS

Required for January 2016 onwards
Casual work paid at an hourly rate of £26.00
(Based on Thamesview Qualified Teacher Scale M4)

We are looking to develop the support provided in school on a 1:1 and small group basis for lower ability students to raise attainment at Key Stage 3 and GCSE Maths.
We want to create a team of maths tutors to come into school on a flexible basis as and when required (casual work paid hourly) to coach and provide intervention sessions for students requiring additional help to make the expected progress in this subject area. The role will also include liaising with the Director of Maths about the intervention requirements/suitability and providing evidence to track student progress

Our ideal candidates will...
- hold QTS or have relevant teaching/tutoring experience
- relate well to students and be able to engage and build effective working relationships with them
- be enthusiastic and be able to demonstrate innovative and creative teaching practices and intervention strategies
- have high aspirations for all students
- have an understanding of the AQA Maths GCSE syllabus

The School is one of the best performing High Schools in Kent and received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our **HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 1120** or email **k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk**

Closing Date: **30th November 2015 at 9.00 am**
Interviews: **w/c 7th December 2015**

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.

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Interested in joining our dynamic and diverse workforce?

The National Crime Agency (NCA) is leading the UK's fight against serious and organised crime threats, such as human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, and cyber crime.

We are looking for experienced professionals to fulfil roles as:

- Professionalising Investigation Programme Level 2 (PIP2) qualified Investigators
- Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) trained Interviewers
- Analysts
- Intelligence Officers
- Covert Internet Investigators
- Digital Forensic Officers
- Cyber Crime Officers
- Project Managers
- Firearms Officers
- HOLMES Indexers
- Tier 3 Interviewers

When and where?

Join us at one of our Recruitment Roadshows – no pre-registration required but please bring photographic ID - at any time between 12.00 – 19.30 hours at one of the following dates and locations:

- **London** - ETC Venues, One Drummond Gate, Victoria - 30th November & 1st December
- **Warrington** - The Lymm Hotel, Lymm - 3rd December
- **Wakefield** - Holiday Inn, Leeds-Wakefield - 7th December

You will have the opportunity to start the application process at the roadshow. Attendees may submit their CV and a covering letter directly to a member of the NCA Recruitment Team. Selected attendees will also be invited to participate in an informal speed interview with a senior officer.

For further information, including venues and entry requirements visit www.ncacareers.com

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NCA National Crime Agency — Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116 STOPPING UP OF LAND AT 1 IMPERIAL DRIVE, GRAVESEND, DA12 4LL

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Medway Magistrates' Court on 6 January 2016 at 10:00 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at 1 Imperial Drive, Gravesend, DA12 4LL as Edged Red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform David McKnight by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ or by email david.mcknight@kent.gov.uk before 27 December 2015 quoting reference number LS/21/109630/608.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact David McKnight using the contact details shown above.

ROGER WILKIN
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & WASTE
Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund
Ashford Highway Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8AD

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

ACG Scaffolding Ltd of 7 Shirley Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 7JW is applying for a licence to use Marwood House, Stones Cross Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 8LT as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 1 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.



Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Darren Donnelly T/A D&G Scaffolding of 3 Blann Close, Eltham, London SE95JJ is applying for a licence to use Marwood House, Stones Cross Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 8LT as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 1 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

LICENSING ACT 2003: Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Studio Sorella Ltd has applied to Swale Borough Council for the GRANT of a Premises Licence to operate the following Regulated Activities: Films from 09:00 to 22:30hrs every day and the sale of alcohol (on and off the premises) from 09:00 to 22:00hrs every day. On New Year's Eve both Regulated Activities to continue from the end of permitted hours until the beginning of permitted hours on New Year's Day; all at the following premises: The Yard, 10 Jacob Yard, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NY.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected The Licensing Department, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT. Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 23/12/2015. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing.

Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Ian D Fern trading as Ferns Surfacing Ltd of Tutsham Farm, West Farleigh, Kent ME15 0NE is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 0 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at the operating centre at Wrotham Quarry, Addington, West Malling, Kent ME19 5DL.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

For more **Job Opportunities** visit us online at . . .

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Public Notice Licensing Act 2003

I Philip Leader of 4 Northdown Parade, Cliftonville, Kent CT9 2NR has applied to Thanet District Council, P.O Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent for a Premises Licence under the above Act.

A copy of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the Thanet District Council Offices address above.

The licensable activities will be Sale of Alcohol.

Any representations in respect of the application should be made in writing to the Licensing Department, Thanet District Council, P.O Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent before the 22/12/2015.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

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O'Shea hails Kent grassroots rugby

Coaching programme brought Quins boss to Sevenoaks...



COACH: Conor O'Shea (second right) was in the county after Mike Wooldridge (second left) was honoured for his service to the sport

Rugby

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

HARLEQUINS' director of rugby Conor O'Shea has praised the success of the grassroots game in Kent.

The former Ireland international was in the county this week as part of the QBE Insurance My Coach programme, which rewards coaches who have inspired and supported success in players at both an amateur and professional level.

Mike Wooldridge, of Sevenoaks RFC, was one of just four rugby coaches from across the country to be honoured, and was rewarded with an exclusive coaching session with the Quins boss on Wednesday.

O'Shea told KoS: "I'm involved in the professional side and sometimes you forget that this is what rugby is all about, and coming to a proper rugby club like this is a great honour.

"A lot of the talk of the World Cup and the legacy is about these new coaches at grassroots level who help the development of young players.

"This is the type of club that I was in and it gives you that memory of how hard it is to come through the system and get to the very top.

"This is where people fall in love with the sport, to have people like Mike who are willing to give so much time to the community is fantastic, and hopefully we never take that for granted."

Wooldridge has been involved with the club for 30 clubs, and has experienced success with its junior teams, from the U6s outfit all the way through to the hugely successful U17s side, who have won the Kent Cup four years in a row.

He said: "This club means a huge amount to me and it's incredible to see these kids develop.

"It starts as great fun, friendly tag rugby but you see the boys become friends.

"We've had a lot of success but it's about community sport, it's about people from all sorts of backgrounds coming together, and it's very rewarding.

"It's a great honour to be recognised, it's great for the club and to have a rugby legend like Conor down here is tremendous."

Both coaches felt the recent World Cup was successful in raising the profile of the sport.

Wooldridge added: "The key thing is to get people back into rugby, and while I don't think it had the same impact as 2003, we had a lot of interest during the tournament."

County cricket attendances continue to rocket

ATTENDANCE figures were up 74 per cent in Kent this summer, as county cricket recorded the biggest crowds since the England and Wales Cricket Board was established in 1997.

In fact, 2015 was something of a landmark year for the county as attendances rocketed across all three formats.

More than 10,000 spectators returned to the refurbished County Ground in Beckenham for six days of cricket in May and June, while the Australia tour match at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence brought in 15,000 visitors over four days in late June.

Similarly, almost 10,000 were welcomed to The Nevill Ground, Tunbridge Wells in July for a record LV= County Championship win against Essex and a sell-out crowd witnessed the NatWest T20 Blash match against Glamorgan, while Kent Spitfires' attendances peaked at 35,000 when they crashed out against Lancashire.



KENT CEO: Jamie Clifford

There were also 14,000 present in August as the Kia Women's Ashes Test match took place.

Kent Cricket CEO Jamie Clifford said: "We're delighted to see the national appeal of county cricket growing. This is mirrored in Kent with our ticket sales and membership numbers also growing year-on-year.

"All three formats have a distinct audience and NatWest T20 Blast on Friday nights in particular has become a fixture and the attendances prove it.

"This year was particularly encouraging as we moved around three different venues in this competition, thank you to all our members."

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Tom Pyman** on **01233653477**

Dover snap up former Stones winger Pinnock

DOVER Athletic this week announced the signing of winger Mitchell Pinnock, who joins following his release from Maidstone United.

Pinnock, aged 20, began his career with League Two side Southend United, making two appearances for the Essex side.

Following his time at Roots Hall, the Gravesend-born player joined Bromley, and has had loan spells at Concord Rangers and Tonbridge Angels.

His time at Maidstone came to an end by mutual consent earlier this week. Academy graduates and twin brothers Jack and Alfie Paxman have also signed forms with the club.

Jack is a full-back, and has been named as Player's Player of the Year for Kent for two seasons in a row, while Alfie is a striker with a natural eye for goal, as demonstrated when he bagged an incredible five goals in the academy side's 11-1 victory over Margate on Wednesday night.



BOSS: Chris Kinnear

Ebbsfleet midfielder loaned to Eastleigh

EBBSFLEET United midfielder Robbie Willmott has joined National League side Eastleigh on a temporary deal.

The 25-year-old, who has played 15 games for the Fleet this season, will stay at the Silverlake Stadium until January 2, after a proposed loan move last week to Crawley Town fell through at the last minute.

Boss Daryl McMahon said: ''It says a lot for our squad that Robbie Willmott's gone up a league, and it would have been two if he'd gone to Crawley, but he's not been getting into our side lately. He's a fantastic, intelligent player but is still getting to grips a bit with dropping down to this level. So hopefully, this will kick-start him again and he'll be back in a month or so's time and we'll see a rejuvenated Robbie Willmott.''

Craig Braham-Barrett is also heading out on loan in search of regular football, as he joins Whitehawk for an initial month.

The former Cheltenham full-back recently completed a couple of months at Woking.



LOAN: Robbie Willmott has joined Eastleigh on a temporary deal

Charlton recall defender Lennon

DEFENDER Harry Lennon has been recalled from his loan spell at Gillingham by parent club Charlton Athletic.

The 20-year-old had initially joined on a one -month deal in early October and the deal was extended until December 12 a fortnight ago.

However the Addicks have decided to bring the centre half back to the Valley following something of an injury crisis.

During his second spell at Priestfield, Lennon featured eight times, scoring twice.

As well as a previous stint at Gillingham, the defender also enjoyed a spell at Cambridge United in 2014, where he made two league appearances.

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